FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 OCTOBER 1983

Lebanon

Political Developments — Presidential envoy Robert McFarlane returned to Lebanon to continue efforts to consolidate the cease-fire and start the planned national dialogue committee meetings, Beirut radio reported. McFarlane had earlier held talks in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister-designate Yitzhaq Shamir, who told the U.S. envoy that Israel is very worried about Syria's increased political influence in Lebanon resulting from the cease-fire agreement, according to IDF Radio.

The Saudi information minister, in a statement carried by SPA, expressed the Kingdom's concern about continuing cease-fire violations and about the rise of "semisecessionist movements" within the Lebanese Army which could lead to further disintegration. Saudi Arabia continues its efforts to promote peace in Lebanon and demands that all Lebanese, whatever their faction or creed, rise above their differences and eschew violence, he added. Meanwhile, a responsible source in the "popular committee" established to administer the Ash-Shuf by the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) stated that the new authority will restore government administration in the area, Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon reported. The official deplored the "hostile campaign" against his committee and said accusations that the PSP is seeking partition are part of a "fascist" attempt to undermine the political results of the cease-fire.

Security Situation — The cease-fire was again violated by intermittent shooting in Beirut and in the Al-Kharrub district, according to Beirut radio. Heavy weapons were used in one clash in East Beirut, the radio said. The clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio accused the Phalangists of sniping and setting up roadblocks in Al-Kharrub. Voice of Lebanon subsequently reported that Syria has released 1,200 Druze from its Army to join the PSP militia in 'Alayh.

Further south, the IDF withdrew Hawk antiaircraft missiles and their launchers from Al-Baruk Mountain, according to Beirut radio.

Future of Radios — After study, the government will decide on either permitting or banning private radio stations and those permitted will be subject to censorship, Information Minister Roger Shaykhani disclosed in an interview with the magazine *Monday Morning*. He cited the government's current lack of action against the radios as proof of its dedication to freedom and democracy.

PLO Affairs

The PLO calls on Arab leaders to take a "frank stand" on the continued Syrian "plot" against the PLO and urges them to hold a summit meeting at the highest level to discuss this "serious fateful matter," PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told Arab rulers in a message broadcast by San'a' Voice of Palestine radio. Expressing surprise at Syria's alleged attempt to besiege and provoke PLO forces in Al-Hirmil, 'Arafat said his forces in Ba'labakk are still under siege while the Syrians are continuing to "chase" PLO forces in northern Lebanon in accordance with a "programed plan aimed at the PLO." Meanwhile, Damascus television announced that 50 pilots, technicians, and engineers belonging to the Palestinian Air Force in Syria have joined the "uprising" in Fatah. A Syrian "informed source" cited by SANA also denied "ridiculous" claims by the PLO leadership that the Syrian authorities have seized Fatah offices in Damascus. On the other hand, a Fatah "information source" rebutted Syrian reports that 140 Palestinian officers and soldiers in Syria have defected to the dissidents, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Israel

After a lengthy meeting with Likud leaders, Agudat Yisra'el representatives announced that their party will support Yitzhaq Shamir's government, Jerusalem radio reported. Agudat Yisra'el MK's expressed confidence that Shamir will implement the old coalition agreement, adding that he will provide them with a written commitment in this regard. Three of the coalition MK's favoring a national unity government are likely to support Shamir's cabinet when it is presented for Knesset approval on 10 October, the radio also said. Although the prime minister-designate had earlier opposed postponing the Knesset vote until 10 October, the radio noted that the National Religious Party supported the postponement.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak stated at the end of his official visit to Washington that the primary aim of his talks was to convince U.S. leaders of the need to embark on an immediate move to solve the Palestinian problem rather than postponing the issue until after the settlement of the Lebanese crisis, Cairo radio reported.

Earlier, Mubarak told congressmen in a speech carried by MENA that Egypt did not violate the framework of the Camp David accords or the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty when it recalled its ambassador from Israel for consultations. "Wrong assumptions" concerning Israeli-Egyptian relations are being reiterated from time to time, Mubarak contended. He called on the United States to place Egypt "on an equal footing with Israel in relation to economic and military assistance" in accordance with a U.S. commitment made at the time of the Camp David agreement.

Meanwhile, Mubarak has set three conditions for the return of Egypt's ambassador to Israel, AFP reported citing the Cairo press: progress in the Taba border dispute, a total IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, and a halt to new Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories.

In another development, the Kuwaiti paper *Al-Anba'* welcomed an alleged statement by Mubarak that the Egyptian people were "deceived" by the Camp David accords, asserting that this statement should lead to the resumption of Arab dialogue with Egypt, KUNA reported. Kuwait's *Ar-Ra'y al-'Amm* likewise said it has become clear that Mubarak is "outside" the Camp David accords, according to KUNA.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft attacked an enemy "naval target" in the northeastern part of the Gulf, setting it on fire, and also downed an Iranian F-14 in a dogfight over the area, Iraq announced in a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. An Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio stated that an Iraqi Mirage was downed near Paveh, but an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied the claim and said Iraqi aircraft had not been in action in that area.

Earlier, the Iraqi paper *Ath-Thawrah* warned that the next Iranian offensive will face "destruction and hideous defeat" and that the Iraqis will respond by attacking targets deep inside Iranian territory, INA reported. The commander of Iraq's I Army Corps indicated in an interview with the paper cited by INA that the Iranian attack will be against the forces under his command.

Iran

Tudeh Party Secretary General Nureddin Kianuri participated in a "confession roundtable" of 19 communist leaders broadcast by Iranian television, Tehran radio's English service reported. Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi subsequently said the confessions are as important as Iran's victories in the war with Iraq, according to IRNA.

Gulf Defense

Saudi Arabia will not raise the subject of buying Leopard tanks during Chancellor Helmut Kohl's forthcoming visit, an official Saudi source announced in remarks reported by SPA. The Saudi official, whose comments came in response to a West German statement that Kohl would not commit himself to selling tanks to the Saudis during his visit, also stressed that the Kingdom can obtain the tanks it wants from "various sources" as long as it pays the price.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti troops departed for the UAE to participate in the first military maneuvers staged jointly by GCC states, Kuwait radio noted.

Afghanistan

USSR on Talks — The talks on the Afghan issue conducted through the United Nations are of "positive significance" but would be more fruitful if Pakistan displayed greater "political foresight," the Soviet delegation told the UN General Assembly in a statement carried by TASS.

Spy Allegations — A BAKHTAR announcement broadcast by Kabul radio provided more details concerning the alleged British spy killed on 1 July and claimed that two French, one Swedish, and a Japanese spy entered Afghanistan this year at the same time as the Briton. Stockholm radio identified the Swede as a journalist working for *Svenska Dagbladet*.

Troops Demobilization — Reservists who will have completed 2 years of service by the end of the year and conscripts who will have completed 3 years by the same date are entitled to be discharged from the Armed Forces in November, according to a Defense Ministry order broadcast by Kabul Radio.

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Further Materials on Fatah-Syria Dispute

'Arafat Appeals for Assistance

GF041858 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Oct 83

["Text" of message from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, to Arab leaders, date not given]

[Text] Brothers Arab kings, presidents, and amirs: A good and blessed greeting. I send you this message under these difficult and fateful circumstances through which our Arab nation is passing at a time when the Arab situation is bad and there are the threats of the new U.S.-Israeli-Arab siege imposed on the Palestinian revolution in the north.

In Lebanon we are facing as an Arab nation a U.S.-Israeli plot — in which some Arab parties are involved — to dismember Lebanon into sectarian groups as a prelude to tearing it up, just as Palestine was torn up and dismembered until it was occupied. What is happening now is a plot against our Arab nation, not only against Lebanon or Palestine, because what is taking place in Lebanon is an introduction to what could happen to the whole region.

The threats posed by what is going on are far uglier than what can be imagined for the future of our region and Arab nation. Apart from this, there are serious developments resulting from the Gulf war that will have a serious effect on our region in conjunction with the accelerated events of Judaizing and usurping our occupied land in Palestine and tightening the grip of occupation on it and on the Golan as well as other serious and fateful developments which are afflicting our Arab nation and us, including the raging Mount Lebanon battles and the U.S. and Israeli threats made by senior U.S. and Israeli officials against the PLO and its forces.

At this time were were surprised by orders from the Syrian authorities to our forces besieged in the Shtawrah, Sa'd Nayil, Ta'nayil, and Kafr Zabad, asking them to withdraw to Al-Hirmil and leave their heavy weapons. This reminds us of the conditions imposed on us during the siege in Beirut. This came after the cease-fire in Mount Lebanon and as part of its complementary conditions. When our forces refused these conditions after talks with the Syrian leadership, they were allowed to move from their positions. But we were surprised by their attempt to involve us in fighting in the mountainous areas of Al-Hirmil, which are controlled by Syrian tanks and vehicles.

(?Then the Syrian forces resumed their demand) for our forces toleave their heavy weapons behind. But our valiant fighters rejected these demands and these forces remained under siege in the new place for 5 days, in the open air without water and food and with a number of wounded and families and children of fighters. Our valiant forces were able to break this siege in one of these areas and to carry out what they were able and arrive in the north through the rugged northern Lebanese mountains.

We write to you about this incident because it is a small part of a serious chain of events propagated by the Syrian authorities through a direct role against the Palestinian revolution forces, particularly after the failure of the agent tools which they tried to create on our Palestinian arena to complete this assigned role against the PLO and its revolution and leaders. We still have forces under siege in Ba'labakk. Moreover, the Syrian forces ordered a siege on the north at a time when the Israeli Navy is imposing a naval siege on us and has abducted a number of ships, laden with medicine, food, clothing, and equipment, and even men, at sea to protect the U.S. fleet controlling the area.

The Syrian forces took control of all Fatah centers and then propelled the first troops of some agent forces to northern Lebanon to use as a new cover in the plot being hatched to strike at our camps and positions in the north. These agent forces began to bombard the camps of the Al-Barid and Al-Baddawi Rivers and other Lebanese areas from Syrian positions and under (?full) Syrian military protection. They Syrian forces deployed armored forces, commandos, and artillery to the north to continue the chase within the plan aimed at the PLO and its forces and the Palestinian people and their rights and aspirations.

From my position, I thus have the right to turn to Arab leaders to ask them for their frank stand on this continued plot by the Syrian forces against the PLO and its forces and positions, which is a blow to the Palestinian people's full aspirations and rights. Is it possible for the Palestinian people and (?fruit) of their struggle to be left facing the Syrian forces (?which have practiced), under various slogans and agreements, all forms of oppression and crimes and to strike the PLO and complete what Israel failed to do during the legendary fierce fighting in Beirut? Regretfully, the wounds and blood have not yet dried on the Palestinian body, whose only sin was that it made this honorable and free defense of the honor and dignity of the Arab nation in these battle, apart from the fervent and serious attempts being made on the Palestinian arena to create new alternatives for the PLO tied with the plot and the conspiracy.

I turn to all Arab leaders to bear their pan-Arab, national, and religious responsibilities to support the Palestinian people and the PLO and stop this painful deterioration which, if continued, could explode many situations sooner of later, out of concern with preserving blood to protect the Palestinian Revolution from this conspiracy and to bear the historic responsibilities thrown on our shoulders.

I call for an Arab summit at the highest level to discuss this serious, fateful matter and to stop the Arab deterioration — which is taking place amid the abyss of darkness, injustice, and loss while the enemy is preying on us one after another — with our forces and great strength. This strength and might are disappearing in the face of the enemy and the imperialist and Zionist attacks on our nation and region, which threaten us and our future generations.

Please accept my highest regards. Revolution until victory, with the assistance of Almighty God.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces

'Source' on Syrian Measures

JN041750 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] A PLO responsible source has stated the following:

The day before yesterday the Syrian authorities took control of the remaining Fatah offices in Damascus and its suburbs. The authorities handed some of the offices over to the dissidents and sealed the others with red wax. Meanwhile, the authorities pushed some agent forces, which have started a new plot, against the revolution's forces and positions as well as against our camps in Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid. This operation was reinforced by Syrian armored forces, shock troops, artillery, and rockets in accordance with the unceasing pursuit [of the Palestinian forces] within a premeditated plan aimed at the PLO and its forces as well as the Palestinian people's rights and aspirations. These Syrian military preparations are rapidly accelerating in northern Lebanon in an attempt to tighten the noose around the area.

As everybody knows, this action coincided with an Israeli siege from the sea. The Zionist enemy confiscated three ships as they were heading toward Tripoli. The ships were loaded with medicine, food supplies, equipment, and personnel. This clear piracy took place on the high seas under the protection of U.S. fleets in the area.

The Syrian authorities are carrying out a big siege in the nrothern area in preparation for a large-scale military operation in the area in general and against the Palestinian camps in particular.

Cadres Join Fatah Uprising

JN041958 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] In Damascus this evening, a press conference was held by a number of commanders, cadres, and technician of the Palestinian Air Force, which is called the Force of 14 and which comprises 50 pilots, technicians, and engineers who announced yesterday that they had joined the uprising in Fatah. One of the pilots briefed a reporter who attended on the Palestinian Air Force, its size, and the extent of its participation in the battle. He also expressed happiness in the name of his comrade pilots at joining the uprising movement that opposes the 'Arafat- Al-Wazir policy.

The pilot said that his group had announced its joining the uprising movement after it had run out of patience waiting for the deviant leadership to rectify its course. He added that this leadership was characterized by political, organizational, military, and behavioral deviation. He added: Therefore, we reply to all the allegations being spread by Yasir 'Arafat's organs that say that this uprising is instigated by outsiders. We have announced our joining this large movement, which includes all the fighters and strugglers and represts the goals of all the Palestinian children.

Asked why they had joined the uprising movement, the pilot said: In Fact, this uprising represents the objectives of all the honorable fighters, and we have been with this uprising since its very beginning, but we expected the deviant leadership to respond to our demands and opinions through democratic dialogue. He added that all their efforts were doomed to failure.

Fatah Fighters Join Dissidents

JN022127 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Oct 83

[From "Panorma" program]

[Text] Mahmud al-Labadi, spokesman for the Fatah dissidents, announced this evening in Damascus that more Fatah officials and fighters joined the dissident movement voluntarily and without any clashes today.

Report on Dissidents Denied

JN041519 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] A responsible information source at the Fatah command has denied news media reports that 140 Palestinian fighters and officers have joined the Fatah dissidents. Officer Abu Ghawsh today categorically denied joining the dissidents and cabled Abu 'Ammar to this effect.

Algiers VOP Commentary

LD041323 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Oct 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Why Is the Palestinian Murdered in Damascus?"]

[Text] Four months ago we began a record of the unblessed revolt against the Palestinian revolution. The record included a definition which said that, up to the time when the so-called uprising was declared, the Fatah movement's offices, institutions, and military camps in Syria had been subject to security regulations imposed by the Syrian security services.

Syrian intelligence built a small kiosk in front of every office, institution, or military camp — and sometimes inside them — to protect them. Consequently, these organs bear full responsibility for any harm inflicted on these institutions or offices. Thus, the seizure of these institutions or offices by intelligence agents is in effect an act that was planned by the Syrian intelligence organs, regardless of who executed the act.

After this definition, one does not need to think hard to identify the apparatus that was behind the seizure of the administrative offices in Damascus' Qadam district 3 months ago. Nor do we need to specify the party or names of those who seized the movement's office in Dar'ah. We also do not care to know the names of those who seized the [word indistinct] offices near Yarmuk camp. As for the attempt to storm (Karaj) and annex it

to the uprising, this led to the martyrdom of one of Fatah's members, the wounding of three, and the abduction of four others.

The issue is very clear: The Syrian intelligence services have made a frank decision: to take control of all the Fatah offices, institutions, and military camps in Syria. The decision was wrapped with something they called valiant heroes, such as Abu Salih, Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, Abu Musa, and the rest of the members of this minority which has actually been turned into a gang in the hands of Syrian intelligence.

After every act of occupation or seizure of offices belonging to Fatah, the intelligence services became so delighted that Abu Salih and Qadri summoned the operational staff of the highwaymen in order to express their happiness and pleasure that the uprising was spreading with amazing speed. Today it is the administrative offices in Al-Qadam; yesterday it was the offices at Samid and the office of the grouping in Dar'a. What remains is Homs, Hamah, Aleppo, and the main offices in Damascus.

Abu Salih congratulates the heroes, who were led by Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, for their crimes and then he lifts the telephone receiver and talks to an important person. Abu Salih reassures him by saying: One of them was killed in the camp because he tried to stand up to our forces. Do not forget that they have instructions to defend themselves and we know that bloodshed is inevitable. However, a Fatah martyr has been killed by the intelligence murderers and their hirlings, and Palestinian blood is not cheap. Furthermore, Syria has never [before] allowed the slaughter of Palestinians on its territory.

If we put aside such absurd things as what they called an uprising and corrective movement by armed force and the spilling of blood, what is happening in Damascus and the rest of Syria is a flagrant and exposed conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution which complements the conspiracies of evicting our forces from the Al-Biqa'. The Palestinian Trojan horse, the ghosts, the petty men, and those who are tired of struggle will not be able to cover up this crime being committed against the Palestinian people.

We now ask ourselves: Since when have the Syrian intelligence organs permitted anyone to carry arms in any Syrian territory? Since when has the brother of Abu Khalid al-'Amlah been walking around Damascus fully armed and drawing up plans for military operations, which regrettably are not directed against Israel but against the Palestine revolution, Fatah, and the Palestinian people?

These people have thrown away all the false masks that they had worn. Today they march fully unmasked hand-in-hand with the intelligence services to liquidate and take over all of the Fatah movement's offices and institutions in Syria.

The Palestinian people and the masses of the Arab nation will not allow the honor of the Palestinian people to be trampled upon and its institutions and offices handed over to highwaymen under the cloak of what they called uprising, corrective movement, or love of Palestine.

Our arab nation and Palestinian masses are not fooled by these tricks. That is why all Arabs are against them. The Palestinians will fight against them without any hesitation, because getting rid of the Palestine revolution the way it is done in Damascus is indeed a dangerous action that threatens the international position occupied by our people and their cause.

Damascus is making a big mistake in placing all its weight behind these bands and exposing the Fatah movement's future and potentials in Syria to danger. Fatah's relationship with its Syrian and Arab masses and its issue is deeper and more rigid than any decision to strike at this relationship, no matter how strong the faction that stands behind it.

Baghdad Voice of PLO Comment

JN042020 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1641 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Talk by radio's political editor]

[Text] The so-called rejectionist front in the Palestinian arena, which was formed in the mid-seventies according to the plans and encouragement of some Arab regimes, was not intended to abide by the glittering revolutionary slogans the front had raised. The objectives of some of those who created this front were to split the Palestinian arena and control the Palestinian revolution.

At that time, Fatah crystallized in an unprecedented manner the principle of democracy among the fighters. Fatah replied to the rejectionist front's accusations by opening all dialogue channels within legitimate Palestinian frameworks to discuss the nonexistent theories and slogans raised by the rejectionist front. The aim was to discuss these theories and slogans, and not to reject them. However, Fatah at that time was able, because of its position and large-scale extension in the Palestinian people's circles, to strongly confront anything that opposed the Palestinian national program.

When this front began to constitute an obstacle to certain Syrian political maneuvers, the Syrian leadership proposed a three-point plan for the rejectionist front during an official meeting with Fatah leaders. The first point proposed that Fatah liquidate the rejectionist front. The second proposed that Syria liquidate the rejectionist front. The third point suggested that Fatah and Syria together liquidate the front.

Fatah's reply at that time reflected its leading position in the Palestinian revolution and expressed its historic visualization of the nature of the subjective developments in the Palestinian arena. Fatah considered the rejectionist front a part of the Palestinian arena, although it realized that foreign factors had had a prominent role in the structure of this front. However, Fatah felt responsible for the promotion of Palestinian activity. Fatah refused to assume the antinationalist role of suffocating and terminating the various political and ideological opinions so long as these opinions remained within the framework of the Palestinian arena despite the fact that this framework was loose due to Arab interventions.

Fatah not only rejected that three-point plan but also stressed that it would decisively confront all those trying to harm any Palestinian inside the Palestinian arena so long as that Palestinian was raising the revolution's slogans.

Today, it seems that the equation is being inverted by the Syrian regime. After it has rallied around it a group of agents, malicious and despicable persons within the Palestinian arena, the Syrian regime is now looking for one of the Palestinian revolution's factions to back its attempt to liquidate Fatah.

In the rush of its illusions, the Syrian regime forgot that Fatah is the Palestinian people. Therefore, this regime is waging a battle against the Palestinian people in Syria. This regime is pursuing our masses from Al-Yarmuk camp up to Dar'a. It is also closing down the revolution's offices in Damascus and seizing the revolution's camps in the Damascus suburbs. The regime's feverish illusions are further escalating to the point that it makes contradictory statements and justifications for its aggressive measures against our people and revolution in Syria, Lebanon, and in northern Lebanon in particular.

The other factions of the Palestinian revolution realize that the attempt to liquidate Fatah is just a prelude to the liquidation of these factions as well. These factions also realize that when the U.S. overlord, who is residing in the White House, made his firm conditions to liquidate the PLO, he did not mean only Fatah, although it comes in the beginning. The Syrian regime is fully aware of its role in this regard because it is more experienced in Palestinian affairs than the U.S. Administration. The Syrian regime still believes that the mask of revolution, the edifice of Arabism, and the steadfast revolution in the face of U.S.-Zionist designs is still covering its face. Therefore, it believes it will be very easy to antagonize Fatah and eventually liquidate it.

The Syrian regime also believes that it will be fairly easy to form another rejectionist front, aimed directly against Fatah this time. Can any front confront the entire Palestinian people? Once again we say that Fatah is the Palestinian people, whether this pleases our enemies or not.

Fatah has revived the Palestinian people's national identity wherever they are. This has been the historical accomplishment Fatah has achieved; it is also considered the most significant achievement in the history of the Palestinian liberation revolution. Fatah is still the backbone that is further promoting this achievement to the point of uniting the features of Palestinian political ideology. This means that the liquidation of Fatah would undermine this historic achievement and mark a retreat in the revolution's march. Should this happen, the Palestinian question would once again be considered a cause of refugees or even worse.

The U.S. design to liquidate the PLO aims at achieving what has been said. This design tries to cancel the Palestinian people's role in the struggle by canceling their influential political instrument and aborting their national identity. Hence, we stress that the battle of Fatah is the battle of the Palestinian people.

If the Syrian regime has forgotten this fact amid the fever of its U.S. illusions, it will pay dearly before it recovers. We suggest that the Syrian regime look around and realize that the Palestinian people's number one enemy has failed to obliterate our people's identity, to abort their struggle, and to liquidate their influential political instrument. This regime should benefit from the Zionist enemy's attempts as well as the attempts of other Arab brothers in this regard.

Aren't we the authors of the great historic steadfastness legend of Beirut? Therefore, we give this free advice to the Syrian regime, hoping that in an abrupt recovery it may take advantage of it to preserve what is left of the assets within the boundaries of Damascus itself — if this regime still has any assets.

One last word we would like to address with all our hearts to the Palestinian revolution's factions: Try to become aware, before it is too late, of the designs the Syrian regime is implementing against the Palestinian revolution's factions. Try to predict the future because the existence of the Palestinian people, their sacreed question, and valiant revolution are threatened. It is high time these factions defined clear stands. We have no doubt whatever that the Palestinian revolution's factions, which enjoy independent decisionmaking, will stand in the same trench as their people in order to face the liquidation plots and the political termination attempts implemented by the Syrian regime. We are confident that these factions can never stand in the trench of the enemies and the plotters.

These factions must make a decision before it is too late, because the battle has started. This is the battle that will determine our fate: to be or not to be.

Dissidents Attack Syrian Nationalists

NC041844 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] A new development ensued in 'Alayh this evening when Palestinian elements of the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] group attacked a Syrian Nationalist roadblock there with rockets and machineguns. Tension prevails in the area.

Nimr Salih on USSR Ties, Emergency Committee

GF041454 Kuwait Ar-Ra'y al-'Amm in Arabic 3 Oct 83 p 21

[Interview with Nimr Salih, identified by nom de guerre Abu Salih, one of Fatah dissident leaders, by unidentified *Ar-Ra'y al-'Amm* correspondent in Damascus — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Can you tell us something about the Soviet Union's stand toward your movement?

[Abu Salih] By strategically viewing what is going on in the region, it is very unjust to say that the Soviet Union does not support the "uprising." The uprising is against Israel, the United States, and the capitulatory settlement. The Soviet Union is against Israel, the United States, and the capitulatory settlement. The Soviet Union has not informed us that it supports the uprising. However, we hear it through its organs and our contacts with it. Truly we can say that the Soviet Union is very anxious for this uprising to succeed and it supports it. But the Soviet Union is a superpower and it cannot interfere in the affairs of a

Palestinian organization in which there is a dispute. We do not want the Soviet Union to declare its support for us. However, we are convinced that it seriously supports the targets we are fighting for. While struggling, we will reach the point at which we will ask the Soviet Union to support us more efficiently to improve our struggle and this demand will be made at the right moment.

To be more accurate, we do not have anything from the Soviet Union except support, backing, and assistance. As for the future, I say that the Palestinian-Arab nationalist relationship is developing well and so is the Palestinian-Soviet relationship. The development which I mean is that mutual confidence and understanding will be far better than before.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the formation of the emergency committee is a dissolution of the present Fatah movement?

[Abu Salih] On the contrary, the formation of the emergency committee is an attempt to preserve what the PLO has achieved. It is an acknowledgement of the PLO's efforts to protect the Palestinian people's achievements. The PLO is the organization which is working for the Palestinian people and their rights. Therefore, when we demand the formation of an emergency committee, we want to preserve the organization. The committee's memo No 18 is clear: forming a temporary action committee, emergency committee, which will supervise fighting, organization, and media. In other words, we explain this by saying it is an alternative to the Central Committee and indeed it is a leading committee. Fatah will seek the arbitration of a congress to resolve our differences. We demand that those who led the movement be tried. [sentence as published] Therefore, the emergency committee is the solution which was reached by sages from the Palestinian people. This committee includes many Palestinian personalities who were strugglers for Palestine and who were subjected to torture before half of the members of the Fatah leadership were born. Men like Bahjat Abu Gharbiyyah, Ibrahim Bakr, 'Abd al-Qhaliq Yaghmur, and Rasir 'Umar, and many personalities which I do not recall their names, are known and have struggle experience. The emergency committee will lead Fatah and the PLO and will be the backbone. We strongly call for their [some Fatah leaders] trial by the congress. As for the emergency committee, we stipulate that it does not include any one from those who were condemned by the revolutionary council for contacting Zionists, because they are not entrusted with the Palestinian people's leadership and revolution. Such a committee will save Palestinian action. As for those who say that achievements of 18 years will come to an end, we say: no. It is they who will come to an end because those who are contacting Israel and have relinquished Palestinian action will be tried and our people will call them to account.

Kuwaiti Paper on PLO Plans for Arab Summit

GF041105 Doha QNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Oct (QNA) -- An official Palestinian source has reported that during the next Arab summit in Riyadh the PLO will bring up a draft plan calling for recognizing a Palestinian passport and for ensuring Arab approval for this. In a statement published in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas*, the source said that the PLO will also discuss the issue of Arab-Palestinian relations in order to have the Arab summit issue a resolution on noninterference in PLO internal affairs and on the Arab commitment to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Arab League Foreign Ministers Meet in New York

LD041401 Kuwait KUNA in English 1017 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] United Nations, Oct 4 (KUNA) -- Arab foreign ministers agreed Monday night that they should increase their efforts to bring about a speedy end to the war between Iran and Iraq. Chedli Klibi, the Arab League Secretary-general, said in a statement, "the necessities of our Arab interests dictate that we should direct all our efforts to putting an end to the war as soon as possible in a way that serves the maximum of Arab interests and of the security of our states in the Gulf."

Though the U.N. initiatives have brought no results, Klibi said "This must not prevent us from carrying on and insisting to look for the best solution."

Klibi suggested that the Arab countries ask the U.N. secretary-general to resume his mediation efforts in the conflict. The previous mission by special U.N. envoy Olof Palme of Sweden ended in failure.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad described the statement by Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati last Friday as "dangerous" and recommended that the Non-aligned Movement undertake new initiatives aimed at bringing about an end to the hostilities.

The 21 Arab League foreign ministers or their deputies met in closed session for their traditional annual gathering which coincides with the U.N. General Assembly. Arab League ambassador Clovis Maksud said there was consensus in the meeting that the United Nations, and more emphatically the Non-Aligned Movement, undertake steps to halt the Iran-Iraq war. Maksud said Monday night's meeting was also a follow-up to the international conference on the question of Palestine which ended in Geneva September 7.

Ministers also discussed relations between Arab and African countries, Maksud said, and they welcomed the decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council to cut off economic aid to any African country that restores diplomatic ties with Israel. Many African states also welcomed this action and the hope was expressed that the Arab League as a whole would be supportive, Maksud said.

In his statement, Klibi also drew attention to the dangers facing Arab-African relations. "We must work together to face the prospect of more African countries restoring relations with Israel," Klibi said. He recommended that the Arabs consult with the Africans on all matters "so that they do not feel we are only after their votes when needed and then forget about them."

On the situation in Lebanon, Secretary-General Klibi paid tribute to the efforts by Saudi Arabia and Syria which led to the successful conclusion of a cease-fire more than two weeks ago.

Commenting on the cease-fire, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal told reporters after the meeting "the Arab states have proven that they can deal with their problems." He cited the Fes summit and the Lebanese situation as cases in point. "With perseverance and good intentions, the Arab nation can, with God's help, achieve its wishes and aims," he said.

Maksud said there was also a recommendation that the Arab League in the U.N. be strengthened further so that coordination of Arab efforts [words indistinct] levels in the various committees can be enhanced. Another recommendation was for the convening of an Arab foreign ministers meeting to prepare for the 13th summit meeting in a few weeks in Saudi Arabia, Maksud said.

The issue of neutral observers to monitor the cease-fire in Lebanon was not discussed, but diplomatic sources said observers from Saudi Arabia or one of the Maghreb countries might be acceptable to Syria.

Qaddumi Meets Nyerere, PRC Foreign Minister

JN041814 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO's Political Department, has met in New York with Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere. They discussed developments in the Palestinian question and current affairs in the Middle East. They also discussed means of further promoting cooperation and relations between the PLO and Tanzania as well as Palestinian-African relations.

Abu al-Lutf also met with the PRC foreign minister, who is participating in the present session of the UN General Assembly. They discussed various aspects of the Palestinian question and recent developments. They underlined the need to further support the Palestinian people's just struggle under their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, in their confrontation of the imperialist and Zionist designs.

The PRC minister reiterated his country's principled and firm stand on the Palestinian people's struggle and just cause. He spoke highly of the wisdom and courage of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] during the confrontation of the forces hostile to the Palestinian people's struggle.

PLO Official Responds to Salim's UN Statements

JN041839 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] In New York Brother Zuhdi at-Tarazi, the PLO's permanent representative to the United Nations, has asserted that the Palestinian people reject Lebanon or any other place in the world as a substitute homeland for Palestine. This came in statements he made in response to the Lebanese foreign minister's speech at the United Nations which included accusations aimed at the PLO and expressed Lebanon's attempt to evade its Arabism and pan-Arab responsibility toward the Palestinian question.

At-Tarazi further said that sectors of our Palestinian people are living in Lebanon as guests of the Lebanese people and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. Our people, who were dispersed from their homeland in 1948, refuse to settle in any country other than their homeland. We have a homeland called Palestine, he said, and we are not seeking a homeland in other peoples' countries. Minister Salim should have called for the withdrawal of the invading Zionist forces, which destroyed Lebanon, and not for the withdrawal of the Palestinians.

The Lebanese minister said that the Palestinians should leave Lebanon and seek a homeland in the other Arab countries.

Touching on Palestinian-Lebanese relations, Brother at-Tarazi said that these relations are governed by numerous agreements endorsed by the Arab countries at the various Arab summit conferences. We are abiding by these agreements, he said. We hope to have strong and sound relations with the coming Lebanese nationalist government.

Joint Forces Report Attacks on Israeli Targets

Patrol Hit Near Sidon

NC020737 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 2 Oct 83

[Text] The joint forces attacked an Israeli military patrol south of Sidon with machineguns yesterday. Eyewitnesses said a military vehicle was burned and its occupants were killed or wounded.

An Israeli spokesman admitted the operation and said the patrol chased the attackers, who disappeared in the groves on both sides of the road. As usual, the spokesman did not reveal losses in lives and equipment.

Further Operations in South

JN021847 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 2 Oct 83

[Text] South Lebanon — The heroes of the joint Palestinian and Lebanese Nationalist Forces continue their daring fedayeen operations against the positions and patrols of the Zionist invasion forces in southern Lebanon.

The fighters of the joint forces detonated a Zionist military vehicle near Marj 'Uyun in southern Lebanon where the military command of the Zionist invasion forces is located. Reports said the military vehicle was destroyed and five Zionist soldiers who were inside the vehicle were killed.

The Zionist forces besieged the area to evacuate their dead soldiers and remove the rubble of the destroyed vehicle. The forces also arrested dozens of Lebanese citizens.

The fighters of the joint forces returned safely to base.

West Bank Operation

JN031749 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 3 Oct 83

[Text] Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland continue their valiant operations against the enemy's personnel, patrols, positions, and forces. A group of our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland has carried out a successful attack on an Israeli military patrol near the city of Hebron in the occupied Palestinian West Bank. The attack, which was carried out with machineguns and handgrenades, destroyed one of the Zionist patrol's vehicles and wounded several Zionist soldiers.

A Zionist military source admitted the attack but did not give details of the losses. He added that the Zionist army and police forces mopped up the area in a search for the perpetrators, who managed to withdraw safely to their base.

Jubb Jannin Operation

JN041845 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] In southern Lebanon the heroes of the joint forces continue their daring operations against the Zionist enemy's patrols and positions in the occupied Lebanese territories. A joint forces group detonated remote-controlled charges as Zionist military vehicles were patrolling the area near Jubb Jannin. The explosion destroyed one of the patrol's vehicles and left its passengers killed or wounded. A Zionist military source admitted the attack but, as usual, did not give any details of the losses.

GULF AFFAIRS

No Further Mine Sightings in Gulf Waters

GF041343 Dubayy Khaleej Times in English 4 Oct 83 p 4

[By correspondent]

[Text] Doha — No mines have been sighted in Gulf waters for the past month, according to shipping circles here. Reports of mines drifting from the Iran-Iraq war zone had led all ships to take safety measures during July and August this year.

Port officials and shipping sources in Doha said there had been no reports of mine sightings during all of September. "It has been ages since I last heard of it," was how one official put it.

Warnings of possible explosion of the drifting mines were first issued on July 7 by the US Defense Mapping Agency. Since then, Qatar Navy ships have reported the safe blasting of one of the mines in their waters. Two mines were spotted near Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain, on July 15.

During August, port radio networks received a large number of calls from vessels in the Gulf which suspected they had spotted a mine. Most of these sightings turned out to be false alarms. According to one shipping expert, commercial cargo vessels are hardly in a position to identify mines. It would require specialised equipment to spot them and then safely detonate them, he said.

Most of the calls received during the last week of July and throughout August this year were said to be from anxious vessels which had mistaken some drifting, unidentifiable object for a mine. There has so far been no confirmed report of any vessel having been damaged by a mine in Gulf waters.

The scare over mines at one stage had become so widespread that there were reports of insurance companies raising their premiums on tankers and other vessels sailing in Gulf waters. "Most of us have now forgotten about it all," said a shipping source here yesterday.

KUWAIT

Prime Minister Addresses Troops in GCC Maneuvers

LD041852 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Excerpt] His highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Sa'ad al-Abdallah as-Sabah, inspected and bid farewell to the Kuwaiti deployed force, Jabir, on its departure for the UAE to take part in the joint Gulf maneuvers codenamed Dir' al-Jazirah [pensinsular shield] which are to be carried out for the first time by the armies and states of the GCC.

His highness, accompanied by the defense minister and the chief of staff, inspected the departing force and then made the following speech: [begin recording] In the name of God. It pleases me when meeting you today to convey to all of you the greetings of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces and his wishes to you for success in performing the military duties and tasks with a spirit of loyalty and with a sense of responsibility.

On this occasion I should like to say that the government, guided by his highness the amir, pays great attention to strengthening our young Army and to supplying it with modern weapons and equipment. But the lesson, brothers, is not in purchasing and accumulating arms; the lesson is in knowing how to use these modern military weapons and equipment and how to maintain them. I call upon all the officers and commanders and men to fully concentrate on learning and training and organizing. We are living in the age of knowledge, science, and technology. Every military man must be armed with knowledge and science.

Supplies for the Armed Forces are continuing. We are concentrating, now that we have gone a long way in developing and organizing the air defense force with regard to fighter aircraft and big transport aircraft and [word indistinct] air defense equipment — surface to air — and radar equipment and also early warning systems and equipment, we are now concentrating our effort to build our naval force. Our ships will be equipped with the most up-to-date military and naval equipment. They will also be equipped with long-range guns, with antiaircraft guns, and with sea-to-sea missiles.

It pleases me to say that there are a number of our youth abroad, training and learning how to sail these ships. God willing, soon they will sail these ships to their homeland.

Dear brothers, when we supply the three armed forces with the most modern weapons, we set out from our feeling of pan-Arab duty toward the causes of our Arab nation, and especially the Palestinian cause. As God said in His dear book: Make ready against them; use your strength and your power, including steeds of war, to the utmost in order to strike terror into (?the hearts of) the enemies of God and your enemies, and others bdeside them whom you may not know but whom God knows.

Dear brothers, the challenges are many and the ambitions of the enemies of the Arab people and the Islamic nation are great. But we, the sons of Kuwait, the sons of those brave men who sacrificed all that is precious and sacrificed their lives in order to preserve this good earth, we, the sons of those heroic men, pledge to God and everyone that we shall follow this path and preserve the trust. We shall also maintain the safety of this country, its independence and sovereignty, recalling God's words: Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God; some of them have completed their vow (?to the extreme), and some (?still) wait, but they have never wavered in (?their determination).

Once again, dear brothers, I wish our Armed Forces further successes and further victories. May God grant you success and preserve the people of Kuwait from everything hateful. Thank you and God bless you. [end recording]

Amir Begins Talks With Algerian Prime Minister

LD041802 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Excerpts] at 0900 this morning his highness the amir of Kuwait received His Excellency Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani,

prime minister of the sister Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Minister for the Affairs of the Amir's Office Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad al-Jabir and the head of the accompanying delegation, Minister of Commerce and Industry Jasim Khalid ad-Daud al-Marzuq.

At noon today his highness the amir gave a luncheon banquet at his residence in Dasman in honor of His Excellency Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, prime minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, and the accompanying delegation. The banquet was attended by the heir apparent and prime minister, several state officials, and by members of the accompanying delegation.

At 1015 this morning Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah received His Excellency Prime Minister Mohamed Ahmed Abdelghani and his delegation at the Cabinet office.

At 1030 joint talks between the State of Kuwait and the Algerian Republic began. The Kuwaiti side was led by Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, and the Algerian side was led by His Excellency Mohamed Ahmed Abdelghani. The talks concentrated on the firm fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries and the means of consolidating them in various fields. They also dealt with current Arab conditions in general and other issues of mutual interest.

SAUDI ARABIA

Information Minister Reports Appeal on Lebanon

LD042203 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1955 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Oct (SPA) — His excellency the minister of information, 'Ali Hasan ash-Sha'ir, has stated that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issued the following appeal this evening:

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as represented by its king, government, and people, expresses to all Lebanese brothers its deep regret and utmost concern about the constant painful reports carried by the Lebanese media regarding renewed armed clashes and incidents of sniping and fighting between the sons of the Lebanese nation. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is also concerned about repeated information — which we denounce if true — regarding the rise of semi-secessionist movements within units of the Lebanese Army within the last 2 days. This may lead to further disintegration, separation, and the rise of more small groups among the many Lebanese factions which form the basis of the entity of the people of Lebanon and through whose cohesion and cooperation the people of Lebanon derive their strength and the foundations of their unity.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia therefore has made efforts and is still making the utmost efforts to achieve a cease-fire and the silencing of the means of death and destruction in all parts of the Lebanese Republic. These efforts are undertaken for the sake of the Lebanese people, for allowing them to enjoy security, quiet, and stability so that they can create an atmosphere suitable for the beginning of a national dialogue and the reaching of a comprehensive agreement for a formula of permanent accord. Such an accord proceeds from practical solutions that destroy the roots of disputes and help to correct the conditions and balance the affairs.

"Under the weight of this bitter reality, the Kingdom is again even more persistent in demanding that all Lebanese, whatever their faction or creed, rise above small matters, use reason and conscience, be patient with and console one another for the agonies, disasters, and wounds, stop spilling blood and protect themselves and the innocent, and be wary of what is being hatched around them, which is contrary to the interests of their homeland and the interests of plots by the Israeli enemy, his ambitions, and conspiracies.

"The situation as we see it has become very crucial and grave to the extent that it no longer can withstand tampering with the destiny and potentials of the fraternal sons of the Lebanese people. This is a true appeal stemming from the depths of sincere hearts which are devoted to our brothers in language, blood, and destiny. Therefore, we ask God to be our witness. We ask both the Arab and Islamic nations and history and future generations to bear witness."

Foreign Minister Addresses General Assembly

LD041121 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2025 GMT 3 Oct 83

[Excerpts] United Nations, 3 Oct (SPA) — Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal affirmed the Kingdom's support for all the efforts made by the United Nations to ease tension and conflict in various regions of the world and its denunciation of covert and open attempts of outside interference which threaten the security and stability of countries. This came in the Kingdom's speech delivered by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the 38th session of the UN General Assembly. The following is the text of the speech:

Mr President: It pleases me to begin my speech by expressing congratulations on your election as president of this session, the 38th session of the UN General Assembly.

The General Assembly meets this year in the shadow of an international community in which tension, anxiety, and political problems still prevail and also in which the search continues for solutions to the economic crises that are tightening their grip around the throats of countries.

If the responsibility of adhering to the Charter and the seriousness in implementing its provisions falls on all of us as members of the United Nations, there is yet a special responsibility that the great powers have in this respect. The fact that they are great powers, which have ways of exerting influence, does not give them special rights. Power does not give rights inasmuch as it imposes duties and responsibilities. It is the dutry of these countries to find bases for international cooperation that is equal and just and also to safeguard the interests of the smaller countries and to protect their independence, and not to divide them into spheres of influence.

His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has asserted the Kingdom's desire to work in the international sphere within the United Nations and its branches, to adhere to its Charter, to support its efforts, and to fight any odd behavior that seeks to weaken it or to diminish the force of law and replace it with force and terrorism.

It is regrettable that there is a deep abyss and a wide gap between adhering to the principles and Charter of the United Nations and the actual behavior of states in their international relations. This fact has led frequently to resorting to the use of arms, violence, and military superiority in resolving problems, instead of adhering to the principle of legitimacy and relying on the concepts of right and justice. This regrettable development is about to diminish the prestige of this international organization, which reflects the hope of mankind to have a society in which security, peace, justice, and the rule of law prevail.

This grave situation demands that all members of the international community think quickly about serious and responsible action to consolidate the adherence to the basic principles of our organization and to deepen its good aims and purposes.

Scores of resolutions have been adopted by the United Nations dealing with the overt Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. Some of these resolutions were adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly on 11 December 1948, providing for the return of the homeless sons of Palestine to their homeland if they wished to do so and for payment of compensation to those who did not wish to return. General Assembly Resolution No 194 was followed by dozens of other resolutions on this subject, but Israel refused to implement any of them. It also refused to implement the resolutions that assert the rights of the Palestinian citizens living in the territory Israel had usurped and safeguarding their legitimate interests. What causes concern is Israel's persistence in disregarding those resolutions, which made the United Nations reaffirm its previous resolutions together with other resolutions. The Palestinian issue was also put on the agenda for discussion.

The gravity of this disregard reflects negatively on the United Nations itself, since the prestige of this international organization, which personifies the hopes and aspirations of nations and peoples for peace, will be undermined if it confines itself to making resolutions and recommendations.

The effectiveness of the United Nations to continue to act as a reliable and feared safety valve to preserve peace and security in the world and to lay the foundations of justice in cooperation among states is to a great degree dependent on its ability to perform its role as a party capable of not only making resolutions but also of implementing them. Many times the United Nations has reminded Israel of the need to ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. In its resolutions it has condemned Israel's aggressive (?policy) and the occupation of the Arab teerritories. The result was that the Zionist entity did not move an inch from its aggressive stand. Clear evidence of this is its overt military occupation of Lebanon and the subsequent deterioration of the situation in the region. Thus, Israel proved that it was unwilling to listen to what is right and had no desire to abide by international consensus.

After all this we ask: Is there anything left for the United Nations but moving this consensus from the level of condemnation to the level of tangible measures to put an end to this aggressive behavior, which is contrary to international [word indistinct] principles and commitments? The United Nations has no option but to regain its character and to assert it, in order to give its resolution a serious nature. There is no seriousness without implementation. The persistence of Israel and those who support it in denying the Palestinian people's right to live in freedom, peace, and security in their country will bring disaster on those who have caused this problem.

It is also necessary to warn against the consequences of the serious actions the Zionist entity continues to take in Jerusalem, whose holiness is recognized by more than 1 billion Muslims all over the world. The most serious of these is Israel's action to Judaize the holy city and to change its (?nature) and also the excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque and the [word indistinct] near it, which might damage its structure. If one day the world should wake up to hear that Al-Aqsa Mosque has been destroyed, partially or totally, the violent reactions in the Islamic world would have grave dimensions which would not be limited to the safety and security of the region but would extend to other horizons and fields.

Mr President, the grave development and dimensions of the recent events in the Middle East crisis, in addition to the inhumane practices of the Zionist entity in Jerusalem and in all the occupied territory, and in particular the continued building of settlements, are clear evidence of the fact that no just and lasting peace can be realized in the area so long as Israel continues to plan for aggression and expansion and so long as the international community confronts these plans with no more than resolutions of rejection, denunciation, and condemnation. We, as Arabs, have proved that we are advocates of peace, and we continue to assert our inclination toward peace, based on justice, but not peace imposed by force and oppression.

The Fes Arab summit conference confirmed the Arabs' firm patronage of peace based on justice; peace which guarantees the security and safety of all the state sof the region, including the Palestinian state, and secures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return, to self-determination, and to set up its independent state on their land; peace whose foundations will not be laid and whose supports will not be constructed without the participation of the Palestinian people, represented by the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

This patronage was finally crowned with the resoltuions issued by the UN conference on Palestine held recently in Geneva, which confirmed the Security Council's main responsibility in achieving peace and security. These resolutions urged the international community to halt its military, economic, and political assistance to Israel to prevent it from continuing its aggression. Before the General Assembly this year, as was the case in past years, is a long chain of Zionist aggressions and crimes to consider and to adopt attitudes and resolutions on. We hope the international community will prove its objectivity and its eagerness to make every member implement its resolutions or the

sanctions provided for in the Charter. Also, we ask the big powers to which the Zionist entity owes its existence and its continuation, the United States in particular as the state that grants Israel many means of strength and life, to work to deter Israel now that the danger has become a threat to the security and stability not only of the region but also fo the whole world.

Mr President, the problem of Lebanon today is the outcome of the continuing Zionist aggression. Israel's aggression and its invasion of Lebanon before your eyes and within the range of the hearing of all of you has detonated internal conflicts, which it feeds, andwhich further complicate the matter. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, together with its brothers, friends, and Lebanon, did all it could to contain the further complication of the problem and to maintain Lebanon's unity, freedom, independence, and return to normal life. At a time when the Arabs prove to the whole world the sincerity of their intentions and patronage of peace and their eagerness to see the affirmation of the principles of legitimacy and respect for the international will, Israel gives one proof after another of its aggressive intentions, its expansionist objectives, and its plans aimed at spreading chaos, instability, disorder, and sedition in the region. At a time when the Arabs have presented to the world brilliant proof of the sincerity of their patronage of just and comprehensive peace — and by this I mean the Arab peace plan — Israel has added to the chain of its aggressive actions a new link, which is no less ugly and violent and which is no less of a threat to security and stability. By this I mean its brazen military invasion of Lebanon and the horrible massacres this had led to, in which thousands of innocent children, women, and old people fell victim, and the resulting deterioration of the situation in Lebanon and the threat to the security and peace in the region. They are striving by this to abort all the peaceful efforts and initiatives — even their categorical and (?immediate) rejection of President Reagan's initiative — at a time when the Arab states, especially the seven-member committee that was set up by the Fes summit, have tried to benefit from the positive aspects of the initiative.

At a time when intensive efforts by the Arabs to stop the fraticide in Lebanon and to begin national dialogue among the various Lebanese factions as a first stop toward restoring stability, national unity, and complete sovereignty proved the Arabs' ability and their keen desire to deal with the issues of peace seriously, the continuing Israeli military presence in Lebanon and Israel's continuing flagrant attempts to create sedition and problems among the Lebanese factions and to intervene in the domestic affairs of Lebanon all give further evidence of its evil intentions and aggressive objectives.

Through repeated attacks on Lebanon and its blatant invasion of Lebanon, Israel has tried to make it a feather to be blown about by the wind, with no stability, whose voice is not heard, and which has only fratricide, sedition, and destruction of lives and property. But the noble Lebanese people proved their strength and their ability to rise above the challenge in the shadow of the hardest of circumstances and the darkest of times. An agreement was reached to cease fire and to begin a national dialogue with the aim of reaching an accord and finding a solution to the problem on the basis of respecting Lebanon's sovereignty, the safety of its territory, its political independence and Arabism, and the unity of its people and state, and safeguarding the rights of all on the basis of equality, respect, coexistence, and cooperation.

Mr President, The war between the two Muslim neighbors, Iraq and Iran, has entered its fourth year and still costs the two countries the highest price in lives and potential. There is no justification for the continuation of this war, in which there can be no victor whatever the outcome.

Iraq has shown its full readiness to forget the past and stop fighting and save the lives of the Iraqi and Iranian people. It accepted mediation by the Islamic Congress Organization, the United Nations, and other international efforts, the last of which was the Gulf Cooperation Council's attempt, which we hope will succeed.

The ferocious war in Afghanistan, which is being waged by the Afghan mujahidin, is a war of liberation against Soviet invasion that has been going on for 3 years and 9 months. This war provides the highest example of sacrifice and jihad. It is also another manifestation of aggression committed by a great power against a state that was its friend up to the last day and respected the rights of neighborliness for long years. And yet it was rewarded with invasion.

We salute the Afghan mujahidin and we support them completely. We support the Afghan people's call for withdrawal from their territory and the establishment of a government that is acceptable to them and maintains its neutrality and safeguards their faith.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has exercised its responsibilities within the framework of the Islamic Congress Organization's intensive efforts to remove all aspects of oppression and occupation to which the Afghan people are exposed so that these people can liberate their will, secure their right to freedom and independence, and exercise their sovereignty over their own soil. It has drawn attention to the gravity of the Soviet armed intervention against Afghanistan and the need to most resolutely stand up to this aggression, because it is a serious precedent that is not confined to violating the sovereignty of the Afghan people and robbing them of their right to self-determination and chosing a regime that is acceptable to them. This precedent also extends to the spread of instability in the area. It is a threat to international security and peace.

Here we reiterate our appeal to the Soviet Union, a great power that shares the responsibility for world peace, to set a great example by withdrawing from Afghanistan and leaving the country to its own people, so that Afghanistan will return to being a peaceful and neutral neighbor with respect to all of its neighbors. We also hope that the Soviet Union will realize the high moral and political cost of continuing to occupy Afghanistan and fight against the Afghan people. The entire Islamic world and all peace- and freedom-loving peoples support the rights of the people of Afghanistan and call upon the Soviet Union to withdraw from their country.

I would like to repeat my country's thanks to Muslim Pakistan for its generous aid to the Afghan refugees and immigrants at the expense of its own economy and resources. The number of refugees in Pakistan has risen above the 3.5 million mark.

Mr President, during recent years the world has faced economic conditions characterized by continuing economic stagnation; deteriorating [word indistinct] international trade; rising unemployment rates, even in industrialized countries; sharply fluctuating currency rates; serious deficits in external trade and payment balances; and a growing tendency on the part of the industrialized states to resort to trade protectionism and deal with their international economic problems on a bilateral basis. Naturally, this had a strong and hindering effect on developing countries and their development efforts.

The growing protectionist inclination in industrialized states represents a regrettable direction. The futility of this trend has been proved by international experience, which has also proved its role in wrecking the pillars of international trade. Therefore, the continuation of this tendency threatens the whole world with a return to the tragic and painful conditions it faced during the 1930's. From this premise we urge the industrialized states to abolish their protectionist measures and affirm their adherence to the system of free international trade in accordance with the provisions of the international agreements and charters that are currently in force.

On more than one occasion the developing countries have confirmed their real desire for sincere cooperation in the international community's interest and have shown a great measure of flexibility and a definite inclination toward objectivity and realism in their visualization of the possibility of international economic cooperation for the sake of development. This was particularly prominent in the resolutions of the seventh nonaligned summit and the premises issued by the Buenos Aires ministerial conference of the Group of 77. Regrettably, the developing countries' positive spirit has not yet found a suitable response in the industrialized countries, which lost a golden opportunity for cooperation at the sixth UNCTAD conference.

Mr President, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has manifested its strong support for the efforts being exerted to develop and consolidate economic cooperation among the developing countries and the strategy of collective self-reliance. From this rostrum I would like to assert the continuation of our support for these efforts, which we regard as a basic and complimentary part of the efforts being exerted to consolidate the vast international economic cooperation. I am fully convinced that the difficulties that our efforts to activate international economic cooperation and build an international economic system based on justice encountered should in no circumstances be a cause for desperation; on the contrary, they should be a motive for us to relentlessly continue in our efforts.

Riyadh Radio Commentary

LD051031 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Oct 83

[From "News and Comment" program presented by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Saud al-Faysal has called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities with regard to the Israeli enemy's expansionist practices. In his UN General Assembly speech he demanded that Israel be made to withdraw unconditionally from Lebanon.

The continuation and presence of the Saudi stance with regard to the Arabs' greater cause — the cause of Palestine — have been, since this cause came into being, the two basic elements in the structural framework of Saudi policy. The Palestinian cause is directly linked with Saudi moves in the international arena. No sooner is the cause raised on Arab or international levels than the Saudi stance comes to the mind spontaneously, not out of sentiment, but because the link is organic and concerns destiny.

Thus, the speech of his royal highness the foreign minister came as a loyal expression in harmony with the aims which the Kingdom is trying to realize. These aims are based on two main factors: first, to win public and official opinion to the side of the Palestinian cause and to portray the justice of this cause; second, to urge world public opinion to put pressure on its official and political circles so as to adopt clear diplomatic stances recognizing the right of self-determiniation and the right to build an independent Palestinian state. These are the fundamentals from which the Kingdom proceeds in its moves to defend the Arab Palestinian right.

There is yet the bigger and more comprehensive framework through which the Kingdom moves which is represented in the fact that Jerusalem is the masra [point of departure for midnight journey to heaven] of the blessed Prophet and the third holy place. This is a tie that firmly links this land — the land of the dawn of Islam — to one of the fortresses of Islam on earth, which God has blessed. This is a tie which no man can break, regardless of his might or power.

It is in the shadow of these fact that his royal highness the foreign minister's speech at the General Assembly comes as a faithful and sincere affirmation of what the Kingdom is trying to achieve with regard to the Palestinian people in restoring their legitimate rights. The international community has to shoulder its responsibility toward them with full commitment and sincerity, especially as the Kingdom continues to expose the evil aims on which the policy of the Israel enemy is based — a policy which continues to be an obstacle in the path of reaching a just and lasting peace.

Leopard Issue Not To Be Raised With Kohl

LD041917 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Jidda, 4 Oct (SPA) — An official source has commented on a statement by Alois Mertes, minister of state at the FRG Foreign Ministry, that Chancellor Kohl will not commit himself to anything regarding the sale of tanks to Saudi Arabia during his coming tour of the Middle East because of Christian Democratic opposition. The source also commented on newspaper reports citing German officials about supplying the Kingdom with a number of Leopard tanks.

The source stated that there has been much talk and numerous statements about this subject for more than 2 years, giving the impression that the Kingdom is insisting of buying these tanks from Germany, though the Kingdom would be paying hundreds of millions to German factories for these tanks and it fully realizes that such tanks can be found on other markets. The Kingdom could obtain what it wants from various sources as long as it pays the price, and it previously has made this public in a statement. Hence it stresses that it will not raise or talk about the subject of buying these tanks with His Excellency Chancellor Helmut Kohl during his forthcoming visit to the Kingdom because his visit is a cordial one.

AL-YAWM Scores Iranian Threats to Hormuz

GF041710 Ad-Dammam Al-Yawm in Arabic 3 Oct 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Will the Iraq-Iran War Be the Beginning of a Third World War?"]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi-Iran war has entered its fourth year and no initiative is on the horizon to end this war, despite the efforts of many countries to mediate between Iraq and Iran. Those efforts have gone with the wind as a result of the Iranian side's stubbornness and refusal to listen to the voice of truth and wisdom.

The Iranian regime knows that if the Iraq-Iran war ends it will not remain in rule for 1 hour because the Iranian people will revolt and will ask that the whole regime be put on trial. The Iranian regime insists on continuing the war with Iraq so that it can achieve a military victory, even a weak one, so that it can silence the tumultuous people and so that with this victory it can veil its scandals and internal problems. Thus, it does not surprise us at all when the foreign minister of the Iranian regime renews the Iranian warning to close the Strait of Hormuz amid the surprise, astonishment, and silence of thoseattending the UN General Assembly session.

We are not surprised by that warning for the following reasons: First, this warning came at the time when there were reports of a new Arab effort to end the war. The end of this war does not serve the Iranian regime; thus it works to destroy these efforts before they begin by issuing such warnings.

Second, this warning comes at the time when Iraq is scheduled to receive five French Super Etendard planes. These planes will tip the military balance in the war in Iraq's favor.

Third, the warning came during reports about U.S. pressure on Paris to reconsider the planes deal with Iraq. Iran knows that Paris does not submit to Washington; thus, the Iranian warning came to nudge Washington to increase its pressure on Paris to stop this deal, which will upset the balance of military power in the war because Iraqi military supremacy would means an end the war in Iraq's interest. This is what the Iranian regime is extremely afraid of.

The Iranian regime knows very well that by threatening to close the Strait of Hormuz it is giving enough justification for interference by foreign powers in the region, and thus is seeking an end to its quandry in the war with Iraq. The regime knows very well that the United States, despite its declared neutral stand on the war, will not hesitate to interfere to protect its interests in this region if the situation warrants. The Iranian regime wants foreign powers to interfere in the region so as to give itself justification in front of its people that it would have achieved victory had it not been for the foreign interference to stop this war.

We reiterate out call to the Iranian regime to be ruled by wisdom and reason and accept the efforts being made to stop the war, to respond to them, and to give up its obstinacy, which will probably be a justification for interference by foreign parties which have their ambitions in the region and which we will not be able to remove afterward. Because the Iranian regime refuses to give up power, a third world war may well result.

PDRY

Chairman Returns From USSR, Bulgaria Visits

GF041644 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, returned to Aden this afternoon after concluding a tour to Syria, Bulgaria, and the Soviet Union. He was received at the airport by the brother members of the YSP Central Committee and Political Bureau, ministers, and a number of party and state officials.

Local People's Council Elections Begin 4 Oct

GF041648 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The masses of our people in all provinces have been heading for election centers distributed in residential units and streets since this morning to practice their constitutional rights in electing their representatives for the local people's councils. Reports by the radio delegations in the republic's provinces indicate that the voters are coming to the election centers with enthusiasm and are practicing the right of secret ballot in total freedom. Moreover, the administration councils at the election centers are giving full facilities to the voters. The polls will be open until 2000 tonight and the elections will continue for 2 more days.

Mubarak on Palestinian Issue, U.S. Economic Aid

NC042132 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stated that his chief concern during the talks he held in Washington was to convince the U.S. Government and Congress of the need to embark upon an immediate move to solve the Palestinian problem, and not to postpone it until after the settlement of the Lebanese crisis. President Mubarak said he had called on the U.S. President to initiate an official dialogue with the Palestinians. The president said his speech before the UN General Assembly is the best evidence of this.

President Mubarak's statement came at a meeting with the chief editors of the Egyptian papers at the end of his official working visit to Washington and prior to his departure from the U.S. capital. President Mubarak said his talks with President Reagan and members of the U.S. Administration and Congress focused on the Lebanese problem, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Chadian issue.

Touching on the relations between Egypt and the United States, President Mubarak said the discussions in this regard centered on economic and military cooperation. He added that President Reagan, the U.S. Administration, and Congress now realize that the Egyptian economy is stable and is proceeding in accordance with a specific plan — the 5-year plan. The president said that he, along with the ministers of economy, finance, and investment, who were in Washington, explained their economic demands, adding that the U.S. side has shown understanding of these demands. He said the talks will continue between the ministers and specialists until final agreements are reached on these demands.

Mubarak Returns 4 October

NC041550 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo this afternoon at the end of his visits to France and the United States, which began on Monday, 26 September. He was received on arrival at the airport by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi abu Talib, and Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim.

In reply to newsmen's questions, President Mubarak said the U.S. Administration understands the dimensions of the Palestinian issue and knows that it is the crux of the Middle East problem. This is clear to the whole world. President Mubarak affirmed that the United States is taking into full consideration the situation in the Middle East.

Regarding his demand that the U.S. Administration exert more efforts in the area to find a settlement, and his warning about the approaching date of the U.S. elections and their effect on the efforts, President Mubarak said the United States (?appreciates) the situation. This is clear from the fact that it still has some forces in Lebanon, and it is working to bring about the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon and to solve that problem and the Palestinian problem, which is the main issue. President Mubarak affirmed that the United States quite understands this, and he said he expounded on the situation to the U.S. side with complete frankness.

Asked about the extent of the U.S. Administration's response to consolidating economic cooperation with Egypt, Mubarak said: We discussed the policy in general and the facilities made available to us. I believe all we have discussed was positive.

Source on Mubarak Visit

GF041110 Doha QNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Doha, 4 Oct (QNA) — An authoritative Egyptian source has said that President Mubarak's visit to the United States — which ended yesterday as he left for Cairo — achieved great success on the various political, economic, and military levels.

In a telephone dispatch from Washington published in today's issue of the Qatari newspaper *Ar-Rayah*, the source said that the return to post of the Egyptian ambassador to the Zionist entity is conditional on the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from Lebanon, on a change in Israel's stand toward the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and on the abandonment of Israel's aggressive practices in the occupied Arab territories. The source pointed out that during his stay in New York, the Egyptian president held direct and indirect contacts with some Arab officials. During these contacts consultations were held on current political matters and Arab issues. Concluding his statement, the source told the newspaper that the Egyptian president succeeded in obtaining additional U.S. military and economic aid for Egypt.

Paper Views U.S. Ties

PM041034 Cairo Akhbar al-Yawm in Arabic 1 Oct 83 pp 1,8

[Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah article from New York: "The Intruders"]

[Excerpts] In his speech at the General Assembly, President Husni Mubarak pinpointed the dangers of Israel's intransigent stand, which makes it difficult to reach any solution acceptable to all the parties to the Middle East crisis, daily becoming more acute and complicated. The president was clear and objective in criticizing Israel's policies and actions in the occupied Arab territories, actions that are quite contrary to the objective of peace, deepen hatred, create further obstacles on the road to peace, and undermine hopes cherished by millions of people.

President Mubarak not only reviewed Israel's intransigent stands but also appealed to the Israeli people to accept the challenge of peace, to reject the concepts of expansion and annexation of land by force, and to give practical expression to the desire to coexist with the Palestinian people.

Despite this objectivity in criticizing the Israelis, some American friends of Israel, who did not welcome such criticism and were unenthusiastic about Egypt's call to the Israelis to withdraw from

Lebanese territory without making this withdrawal conditional upon simultaneous withdrawal of the Syrian forces, thought that Israel has a right to adhere to its stand and to insist on Syrian withdrawal taking place simultaneously with Israeli withdrawal.

As is customary for them, the Israelis and their vocal spokesmen in the United States sought to divert attention from the basic problem in order to avoid being cornered and went on to search for a new fabricated issue that has nothing to do with the number one issue.

Out of the blue the Israeli spokesmen in the United States raised the question of the so-called military cooperation between Egypt and an East European country, namely Romania, in order to create the impression that Egypt intends to resume the purchase of communist arms after many years of boycotting such arms.

The New York Times last Thursday published a long article in which it said that Egypt has signed a contract for the purchase of a large number of Romanian T-55 tanks to add to the hundreds of more advanced and more effective U.S. M-60A tanks it already has. The paper used this report in order to wage a campaign of doubts about Egypt and about its military cooperation with a Warsaw Pact country!

It is unimportant that the paper said that the U.S. State Department hastened to confirm that it was aware of this military cooperation between Egypt and Romania and that it understood the reasons that prompted it to purchase the Romanian tanks, the most important reason being to provide the necessary spare parts for the Egyptian tanks of the same type, for which the Soviet Union stopped supplying spare parts to the Egyptian Armed Forces many years ago. This stoppage immobilized these tanks and rendered them useless.

This understanding by the U.S. Administration of the tank deal which the paper said Egypt concluded with Romania recently does not matter either. What is important is this interference by Israeli and American spokesmen in a matter that is strictly an Egyptian internal affair. Egypt is not a country in the U.S. orbit and is not obliged to obtain prior approval from the United States in its relations with other countries, be they Eastern or Western.

Egypt is an independent and nonaligned state; it is not aligned with one political camp against the opposing political camp. Thus Egypt has the right to freedom of action and to deal with whomever it may wish to; it deals with capitalist countries, just as it deals with communist countries. It is true that it has distinguished relations with the United States, leader of the capitalist world, while its relations with the Soviet Union, leader of the communist camp, are cool and have been almost frozen in the past years, but this does not prevent Egypt from restoring its relations with the Soviet Union to a normal state should it find this beneficial to it and to its people. Even when this happens this does not mean that its relations with the United States will deteriorate, become cool, or be frozen. Rather it means that Egypt, as an independent state, is open to the whole world, with all its camps, alliances, and different systems, without siding with any country or allying itself with one country against another.

These self-evident facts are known to those who are now trying to cast doubt on Egyptian policy and to portray it as contrary to what it is, yet they ignore these facts or don't recognize them.

There is an even stranger and more impudent campaign being waged against Egypt because it has withdrawn its ambassador from Tel Aviv and refused to return him until after Israel withdraws from Lebanon.

Those behind this campaign are not only asking Egypt to return its ambassador to Israel despite the fact that Israel's occupation of Lebanon continues, but are also accusing the Egyptian Government of seeking to undermine the peace reached between Egypt and Israel. The evidence of this in their view is that Egypt has frozen relations with Israel.

Despite its adherence to its stand and its policy, Egypt has not lost hope in the possibility of saving the peace process before the opportunity is lost. President Mubarak has put forward his views with regard to the starting point. He demanded before the General Assembly total Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory without making this withdrawal conditional upon factors that are beyond Lebanon's will. He also called on Israel to seek to achieve peace with all its neighbors who wish to live in peace and pledge not to resort to the use of force to resolve disputes and settle differences.

This is Egypt's popular and official stand on solving the crisis which Israel has caused and which has threatened the slim hope that could have grown and gained strength and so achieved the dreams of the people of the area, who have been afflicted by conflicts, disputes, and wars. Egypt's stand will not change despite the detractors.

Communique No 1,237 Says Iranian Naval Target Hit

JN041747 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,237 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 4 October 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The war the criminal Iranian enemy launched against our brave country and great revolution today entered the second month of its fourth year at a time when the zealous sons of our people and Armed Forces are continuing their brave battles and splendid heroic deeds against the covetous aggressors, scoring one victory after another over their hostile forces on land, at sea, and in the air. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A formation of our capable bold aircraft attacked an enemy naval target in the northeastern Arab Gulf before noon today, scoring direct and effective hits. Our valiant pilots saw the enemy target catch fire. At 1545 today, our bold fighter planes had a dogfight with two enemy aircraft in the same area. Our capable fighter planes managed to hit and destroy one of the two enemy F-14 aircraft. It was seen crashing ablaze in the sea. The other enemy aircraft fled deep inside Iranian territory. All our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. This morning an enemy patrol tried to approach the positions of one of our valiant forward units in the central sector of the battlefield. Our brave fighters encircled it, killed some of its elements, and captured the rest. Those captured were evacuated to the rear. Our forces also seized the weapons and equipment of the enemy patrol. Our forward units also engaged the enemy positions and concentrations elsewhere in the same sector, killing 18, wounding others, and destroying one vehicle and fourinfantry positions.

3. A brave force belonging to our forward units yesterday raided an enemy force opposite our positions in the area facing Panjwing in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing or wounding several troops, and destroying one tank, one heavy machinegun, three infantry positions, one hardware stockpile, and one observation post. The enemy also sustained five killed and the destruction of one vehicle, one infantry position, and one hardware stockpile elsewhere in the same sector.

4. Three were killed, and three weapon emplacements and two hardware stockpiles were destroyed east of Basra. Those stationed in the three emplacements were hit.

5. This afternoon the criminal Khomeyniite enemy shelled the (Shandari) area, which belongs to the village of Sayyid Sadiq, with heavy artillery, wounding three civilians, including one child and one woman.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 October 1983

Iranian Claim of Shooting Down Plane Denied

JN041606 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1542 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Oct (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian clai..is that an Iraqi aircraft was shot down today in the Paveh area in the northern Iranian province of (Bakhtaran). The spokesman told INA that the Iraqi aircraft did not carry out any war activity over (Bakhtaran) today. He indicated that these claims are part of the allegations the Iranian regime makes to conceal its deteriorating military situation.

Army Commander on Expected Iranian Aggression

JN041120 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Oct (INA) — The staff major general commanding the I Army Corps has stated that the Iraqi Armed Forces have taken the necessary measures to attack the Iranian enemy anytime and anyplace. In an interview with *Ath-Thawrah* today, he added: We are preparing not for a defensive battle but to repulse the expected Iranian offensive and achieve what our valiant Armed Forces aim to achieve. He added that President Saddam Husayn was informed of the military preparations that have been made to confront the expected aggression and that he and the other members of the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command, in cooperation with those concerned, have strengthened these preparations. He also announced that the Ar-Rashid Forces had recently carried out many interception activities and operations and had completed many combat missions and ended the presence in the border sectors of the few elements, the guides of treason, with whose help the Iranian enemy sought to achieve various objectives. He also explained that the Iranian enemy, out of desperation, had chosen one of the sectors in the I Army Corps theater of operations and in the past few days had begun establishing command posts there for its forces in preparation for carrying out a new adventure which is predestined to fail.

The Iraqi commander said: When we saw that these elements were determined to carry out a treacherous aggression and after we had adopted deterring measures, the enemy resorted to deceptive methods. The enemy, however, must very well realize that it cannot deceive us and that we are capable of surprising it on any inch of the I Army Corps sector. The commander of the I Army Corps concluded by saying: We in the I Army Corps sector will not hesitate to offer blood in defense of Iraq and to safeguard its land and skies. The results will be decisive and reassuring in the interest of our lofty people.

ATH-THAWRAH Comments

JN041109 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Oct (INA) — The newspaper *Ath-Thawrah* says: The fate of the coming Iranian offensive against Iraq will be destruction and hideous defeat.

In an editorial today, *Ath-Thawrah* adds: This time not only will we repulse and crush their new aggression, but we will

destroy and crush their aggressive forces. We will inflict the heaviest losses on them in order to change the psychological, military, and political situation in Iraq's favor. At the same time, we will reply to the enemy by attacking and striking at selected targets deep in its territory.

Ath-Thawrah points out that the occurrence of the expected Iranian aggression against Iraq during the UN General Assembly's 38th session, where many world states have called for an end to thewar and the peaceful resolution of the conflict, proves that the Iranian rulers insist on continuing the war and exposes the contradiction between the Iranian regime's aggressive actions and its claims and lies at international forums.

Ath-Thawrah concludes: While closely watching the Iranian enemy's movements and maneuvers and observing its methods and objectives, the Iraqi Armed Forces are more capable today than at any previous time, and they possess greater armament and logistical capabilities than they have possessed in the past 3 years. They have made a resolution to win based on their belief in their just battle and on their great and firm confidence in the inevitability of victory. All of this will enable the Iraqi Armed Forces to not only repulse, foil, and crush the coming Iranian aggression, but also to teach the covetous invaders a new lesson that they will never forget.

Saddam Husayn Interviewed on Current Topics
JN041912 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1648 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Oct (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has asserted that Iraq is a barrier to Khomeyni's ambitions against the Arab nation.

In an interview with the French journalist and writer (Charsant Bru) published recently in a book entitled *The Gulf War*, the president said Khomeyni is a destructive force, not a constructive one. Any spot which is seized by Khomeyni is bound to suffer destruction in a manner reflecting negatively on Europe and the Arab homeland in particular and on mankind in general, he added.

Regarding the Arab brothers' stand on the war, President Saddam Husayn said: We wish they had adopted a better stand, but we understand the sorrowful situation that has prevented them from adopting such a stand.

This situation, he explained, is due to superpower intervention and the lack of farsightedness, awareness of the historical role, and self-confidence among some people.

Some Arabs, he said, have been affected by the diseases of international politics and are pursuing a two-faced policy.

Regarding the Syrian regime's support of the Iranian aggression, President Saddam Husayn said the wound left by that regime's hostile attitude toward Iraq and support for Iran with arms, expertise, sympathy, and political backing is deep.

Regarding Iraq's relations with the USSR, the president explained that these relations are good and that both sides are determined to develop these relations for the better.

The president pointed out that Iraq and the USSR came closer to one another when they found common points serving their mutual interests following a realistic analysis of Middle East and international policies.

The president asserted that Iraq considers the development of relations with the USSR an important matter.

President Saddam Husayn described Iraqi-French relations as strategic, saying: We are pleased with the high mutual confidence between us and the French leadership.

The president explained that Iraq is confident that in its relations with Iraq, France works for the good of both France and Iraq, just as Iraq works for the good of both Iraq and France.

The president expressed his regret about the attitude of certain private French companies implementing projects in Iraq. The president explained that some of these companies have acquired the [words indistinct] mentality to exploit Iraq's difficult situation unlawfully. The president emphasized that such an attitude is bound to adversely affect the future of these companies in Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn explained that Iraq's attitude toward France is governed by the enormous relationship on the economic level and by its hopes for a bright future. He said that Iraq did not burden France during the first 3 years of the war. In 1983, however, Iraq explained its circumstances within the context of the responsibility of friendship, he added.

Regarding the Iraqi economy, President Saddam Husayn affirmed that it is not bad at all. He explained that the Iraqi economy was a peacetime economy, but when it found itself in the midst of war, it adjusted itself correctly. The president said that by using a correct and sensible policy, Iraq saved its economy and its positive results.

The president pointed out that the scope is wide open for Iraq's economic prosperity because Iraq is rich not only in raw materials, but also in its general economic activity in the fields of industry, agriculture, and services.

Asked about the possibility of exporting Iraqi oil via Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, President Saddam Husayn explained that the project has not begun yet, but that Iraq and Saudi Arabia are conducting studies on this project. The president pointed out that Saudi officials recently suggested a new idea reducing the time required to implement this project. Contacts are going on with them to study this idea, he said. The president said that Iraq also agreed with Turkey to increase the export capacity of the pipeline running through Turkish territory.

Regarding the continuation of the war, President Saddam Husayn said much has happened and that there is only a little time left.

Asked about the possibility of Egypt's return to the Arab fold, the president wondered: How can Egypt not return when it is Arab? The president emphasized that the Arabs must work for Egypt's return, and that Egypt itself must also work for this return. He said that the nation's interests must be placed above all other considerations.

Asked if the two theories of nationalism and religion can converge, the president said that the two theories can converge if there is a common view of life. He explained that the theory of nationalism has not abandoned religion and that religion has also not abandoned Arab nationalism.

The president pointed out that what the Arabs need now is a (?wise) leadership which begins by unifying the Arabs' economic, political, technical, and scientific stands.

President Saddam Husayn concluded his interview with the French journalist by saying that Iraq is working for the maturity of an idea which would facilitate an Arab meeting at the leel of rulers and provide personal reassurance about joint action.

'Aziz Addresses Nonaligned Meeting in New York

JN042121 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Excerpts] New York, 4 Oct (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Iraq's desire for peace with Iran does not stem from weakness or fear of aggressors because our people and Armed Forces have proved beyond doubt that we are capable of crushing the aggressors and teaching them the lessons they deserve.

Addressing the nonaligned states' annual meeting in New York tonight, 'Aziz added that the last few years' battles are a good example of our ability. This is what we will certainly do in the future whenever the Iranian aggressors try to cross our borders and inflict harm on our people, villages, and towns. We are also determined to make the aggressor understand through tangible facts that his wicked plan to prolong war will only bring him catastrophes.

'Aziz noted the Tehran rulers' rejection of the appeals made by the nonaligned countries and the international and Islamic organizations to establish peace and embark on peace negotiations.

He said that Iraq would like to recall the proposal President Saddam Husayn made last June in which he called for the suspension of all military operations in the entire Gulf region for the sake of ensuring free trade and the export of oil in the interest of all the Gulf states and the whole world, as this will keep this sensitive region free of tensions and possible foreign intervention. We also recall Iraq's call for concluding a special agreement with Iran to avoid striking at the civilian establishments, towns, and civilians. These initiatives and proposals express our faith in the Nonaligned Movement and our sincere desire for peace.

'Aziz said: Iran's aggression against our country has entered its fourth year. There is no doubt that this aggression is one of the most serious issues facing our movement because it is a conflict between two Nonaligned Movement members. Moreover, this conflict is causing tremendous human and economic losses and is posing grave dangers to security and stability in the region and the whole world. He stressed that the prevailing feeling among the Nonaligned Movement's countries is that it is necessary and urgent to give due attention to this aggression and that this subject should not be an ordinary topic on the agenda.

Concluding, 'Aziz said that if the nonaligned states are serious in their desire to bolster the UN role, they should make Iran — a member of the Nonaligned Movement — understand beyond a doubt the responsibility it incurs for its rejection of the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council and General Assembly. They should also make it understand the consequences of this rejection not only on peace in the region but also on the United Nations and its future.

First Deputy Prime Minister Visits Austria

For reportage on First Deputy Prime Minister Ramadan's official visit to Austria, see the Austria subsection of the 5 October Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

King Husayn Receives Sudanese Envoy
JN041644 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today 'Umar Muhammad Yasin, ambassador at large in the Sudanese president's office. He brought a message to his majesty the king from Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri dealing with current developments in the Arab arena and means to strengthen joint Arab action. The message also deals with relations between the two fraternal countries.

King Meets With Information Officials
JN041812 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn met at the Royal Hashemite Court today with the minister of information and directors of information departments. During the meeting, the king affirmed the important role of information during this delicate phase which the Arab nation is witnessing and in facing the challenges which threaten it. His majesty concentrated on the big responsibility which the information media shoulder in deepening national affiliation, preserving the genuine values of the society, achieving a positive interaction between citizens and officials, instilling awareness of development, developing the feeling of good citizenship and discipline, concentrating on educational and cultural programs, and upgrading press information so that it can be obtained easily and used in various fields. The king expressed appreciation for the efforts of various information media organs in serving the homeland and the citizens.

The king held a dialogue with the information minister and directors concerning the means to develop the information media's activities and discussed problems in these activities and appropriate solutions. Future plans to develop and modernize Jordan's information process to suit Jordan's steps toward progress and high achievements on all levels were also discussed.

The meeting was attended by Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Court Minister 'Amir Khammash.

Army Commander Confers With U.S. Official
JN031450 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 3 Oct 83

[Text] Amman, 3 Oct (PETRA) — Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, received in his office this morning Major General Edward Tixier, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense, who is currently visiting Jordan. The chief of staff and his assistants as well as the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman attended the meeting.

Higher Arab Committee Praises Husayn's Work
JN011340 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Oct 83

[Text] The Higher Arab Committee for Palestine has praised His Majesty King Husayn's good efforts for the sake of the higher Arab interests, the Palestine question, and the Palestinian people's rights. It also expressed its appreciation of his majesty's efforts during his latest tour of the Far East and its hope for the success of the efforts that are being exerted to relieve Lebanon of its crisis and realize the aspired national accord. The committee also praised Saudi Arabia's positive role in achieving that agreement.

At the end of its monthly meeting today, the committee issued a statement condemning the ill treatment and aggression to which the Palestinian fighters are being exposed in the Al-Biqa' area as interference in Palestinian affairs. It also appealed to the Arab nation and Arab leaders to take the necessary measures to protect the Palestinian fighters from the dangers and aggression that are threatening them.

In its statement, the committee also asserted that the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war that has entered its fourth year poses a danger to the Arab nation and the entire region.

Salim Holds Washington Press Conference
NC041947 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] In a press conference he held in Washington this afternoon which was reported by the news agencies, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim said there is a need for the four-state peacekeeping force to help remove the foreign forces from Lebanon. He pointed out that the U.S. Marines can begin withdrawing at about the same time the last Syrian, PLO, and Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon. Minister Salim expressed the hope that it would be possible to reach a formula on the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon within 6 months. Minister Salim said Lebanon wants observers attached to the UN truce supervision organization, which has a team in the country, while Syria wants observers who have no connection with the United Nations and do not come under UN control. He added that Lebanon's first choice is for a role to be played by the United Nations. However, unfortunately, the Soviet Union will veto any such proposal. Minister Salim said Syria and Israel want to have political influence in Lebanon, but we shall not permit the establishment of autonomous regions.

Al-Jumayyil, Mitterrand Exchange Messages
NC050926 Beirut An-Nahar in Arabic 4 Oct 83 P 1

[Text] Paris — *An-Nahar* has learned from a well-informed source in Paris that Ambassador Sa'id al-As'ad conveyed last weekend an urgent personal message from President Amin al-Jumayyil to President Francois Mitterrand. The Lebanese envoy met in the Elysee during his short visit to Paris with senior advisers to the French president. He consulted them on the development in the situation in Lebanon and on France's role in assisting the legitimate authority in the salvation operation. Ambassador al-As'ad returned the following day to Beirut carrying an answer to the Lebanese president. The visit was shrouded with secrecy and the content of the message was not revealed.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the French External Relations Ministry yesterday confirmed that Paris still maintains its stance supporting the legitimate authority's efforts to safeguard Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty. This confirmation came in reply to a question about the French Government's view on Walid Junblatt's declaration of a civilian administration in the mountain. A well-informed source said that the French Administration is taking its time in commenting on this step and that it does not wish to adopt a special stand, at least at the present, pending receipt of further information.

Committee Continues To Deal With Security Issues
NC041442 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The Security Arrangements Committee today held its sixth meeting in the Trade Bank branch between Kafr Shima and Ash-Shuwayfat and continued discussing the subjects it is tackling to consolidate the cease-fire and to prepare the suitable security atmosphere to promote the political dialogue. The committee did not issue a statement. However, security sources told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that a positive atmosphere prevailed in today's meeting. It became clear to the committee members that the cease-fire is being respected, and no significant incidents have taken place on the contact lines, apart from some intermittent shooting in the southern suburb, which the committee was able to tackle. The same sources said that the evacuation of the corpses of the victims from the battle areas has succeeded. The International Red Cross was able to evacuate the corpses of a number of victims during the day, especially in 'Aytat and Kayfun, under the Security Committee's supervision. The evacuation of the corpses continued until the afternoon. The families of the victims received the corpses in their villages.

With regard to the situation on the roads, it became clear to the committee that the road to the south was open, as were the roads around the airport, where no armed barriers existed. Traffic on the Khaldah road was not affected as a result of the limited shooting that took place before noon. With regard to the detainees, the security sources said the exchange of detainees is taking place directly between the parties concerned and under the supervision of the committee, which has been able to achieve positive results. The same sources said contacts are continuing to prepare the necessary security atmosphere to facilitate the start of political dialogue.

It has been learned that the representative of the National Salvation Front, Sharif Fayyad, did not attend today's meeting because he is outside Lebanon. The Front delegated another representative, but he was unable to attend the meeting. He kept in constant contact with the committee members for coordination. The new representative will attend tomorrow's scheduled meeting in the same place.

Higher Liaison Body Meets Under Wadi' Haddad
NC041330 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Dispatch by correspondent Joe Sa'adah from Presidential Palace in Beirut — recorded]

[Text] The Higher Liaison Body held its periodic meeting in the Presidential Palace at noon today. The ambassador from Italy, the charges d'affaires of the U.S., French, and British embassies, the commanders of the Multinational Force, and the Lebanese officers team attended the meeting. Presidential adviser for national affairs Dr Wadi' Haddad deputized for his excellency the president of the republic in chairing the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, the head of the main military operations room in the Presidential Palace presented a review of the security situation in the various Lebanese areas in light of the cease-which is in effect and in light of the activities of the Security Arrangements Committee which is working to consolidate the cease-fire.

Dr Haddad then put the conferees in the picture regarding the current contacts to convene the dialogue committee and to overcome the remaining obstacles in this respect. The government has been working from the beginning for a political solution. It has plans for social and economic reforms which it began

to implement through the legislative decrees it issued. It also has plans for political reforms which it will submit in the dialogue conference to build the future Lebanon. Dr Haddad also expressed the hope that the dialogue will be positive and democratic and that no party will create a new fait accompli that will limit the freedom of dialogue and the possible choices. Dr Haddad thanked the British contingent for the arrangements it made to provide the necessary protection to the members of the Security Arrangements Committee at the location of its meeting.

Information Minister on Media, Censorship

NC04/906 Beirut Monday Morning in English 3-9 Oct 83 pp 20-27

[Interview with Lebanese Information and Justice Minister Roger Shaykhani by *Monday Morning* correspondent Muna as-Sa'id, date and place not given, translated from Arabic — questions published in boldface]

[Excerpt] [As-Sa'id] **One year has passed since President Amin al-Jumayyil was elected. How would you evaluate the achievements of his regime so far?**

[Shaykhani] The vigor that exists today has been demonstrated on the ground through the Army's performance in defense of the nation and the way that all members of the Lebanese Armed Forces, regardless of their sects, watered the land with their blood — the land that we, judging by the communiques that have been issued by the Moslem and Christian communities, have agreed once and for all belongs to all of us. Our choice of this option, which may have been a difficult choice but is nevertheless one that we have all agreed on, is a new starting point in Lebanon. This option has been consecrated by what the Army has done in fulfillment of all the missions which were entrusted to it. The Army, furthermore, remains subject to the political authority, which provides evidence — if evidence is needed beyond the actions that Parliament has taken during its long term — that our democracy is comparable with the most developed of the world's democracies. The Army is strong, and like the nation, it is one — it has proved its unity and its ability to do its duty.

So the regime's major achievement this past year has been the creation of a strong, effective, united Army. And as of last April 14, joining the Army has ceased to be optional. Now, my children, my brother's children, and my neighbor's children are in the Army, and it is they who are protecting the nation. That is an important unifying element, and other equally important ones are coming — such as uniform school curricula.

There have been many other achievements. If you look at the situation that existed last October 1, when Greater Beirut was under Israeli occupation, and compare it to what we have today, you will see that despite the recent difficulties, progress has definitely been made. In view of the security situation which has been created by the developments of the past month, perhaps now is not the time to talk about the achievements that have been made, but I will mention a few of the things we have done.

Consider, for one thing, the 150 legislative decrees that have been issued. These took a great deal of time and thought and they represent a giant achievement. Our hope is that Lebanon will succeed in implementing those decrees, which relate to almost all fields. In the economic field, for instance, there is the legislation relating to offshore companies and holding companies, which will boost Lebanon's international position. In the field of housing, we approved a housing plan which, God willing, we or the government that comes after us will be able to implement. And then... you may laugh at this, but we issued legislative decrees regarding the laws of justice; about civil court procedures, for instance, which had been under study since 1959. Many committees studied it, prepared texts, amended them, and so on, until we finally arrived at a text which I hope is acceptable and which will facilitate court procedures. This, too, is a giant achievement.

This may not be the time to talk about what the government has done in such fields, but at the same time, it is not right for the citizens not to know how many achievements have been scored.

[As-Sa'id] **As minister of information, what do you think of the role the Lebanese media have played in the past year, and how do you evaluate the future of those media in these circumstances, especially after the imposition of censorship?**

[Shaykhani] As minister of information, I will answer you with a question: What do you think of the development of the official information media since we took over this ministry? You know in what condition the official media were when we took over the ministry: Very bad conditions, for several reasons, both technical and geographic. I say geographic because you know where the Information Ministry was when alien armies were occupying Beirut. It is true that the people in charge of the ministry in those days worked very hard; some of them, like the radio people, used to sleep in the ministry to continue to establish the presence of the official information media.

But now, I believe much stronger links have been established between the people and the official information media. According to the statistics we have prepared, the audience of the official radio is now larger than all the other stations, and that is very important. In the past — before and during the Israeli invasion — the other stations had a larger audience than the official radio station, but our statistics show that the picture has now been reversed, because our news is accurate and complete. We don't broadcast anything but the news that we get from the security forces; in other words, the only news we broadcast or print in the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY is the news that we are positive is true.

Now, sometimes people may accuse us of not covering all parts of Lebanon, and that may sometimes be true, but for a very good reason: We usually get our information from the command of the Internal Security Forces [ISF], which passes on to us any information it has. So the news we broadcast is not chosen by us but is sent to us by the Internal Security Forces, which send us all the news they get. Some ISF stations report every incident that occurs in their areas — any shell that falls, any murder or other crime that is committed — but other stations are located in areas where certain forces are present, and those forces prevent the stations from contacting their command. That is why some are saying that the official radio prefers one party to the other. But that is not true.

[As-Sa'id] **We have heard those charges. Many are saying that the official radio is biased, but you say that the reason for the absence of news about certain areas is....**

[Shaykhani] ....That the forces in those areas are not allowing the ISF officers to contact their command, which is our only source of information. How am I to know what has happened in this or that village if the gendarme there does not call in as his colleagues in other areas do?

[As-Sa'id] **Why isn't he allowed to call in?**

[Shaykhani] Ask the people who are preventing him.

[As-Sa'id] **Who are those people and why do you think they're doing this?**

[Shaykhani] You, as a journalist, should investigate the matter and find out. As for me, I'm still looking for the reason.

[As-Sa'id] **And you haven't found it?**

[Shaykhani] Not so far.

[As-Sa'id] **But do you really think this is the only reason why the official radio station is being charged with bias?**

[Shaykhani] I am positive that there is absolutely no bias in Radio Lebanon.

[As-Sa'id] **And there was no bias three or four weeks ago?**

[Shaykhani] There was none. Let me tell you one thing: Radio Lebanon should be for all the people, but being for all the people means being for the entity that all the people have accepted in a democratic way, and that entity is the Lebanese authorities. Who represents Lebanon today? The government, Parliament. Is there any dereliction of duty on the party of the official radio where the authorities are concerned? No. And there is no dereliction in other matters, either. Our radio is free; whoever wishes to come and speak is welcome to do so; — we are prepared to listen.

But freedom does not mean that anyone is free to shoot other people, for instance. Freedom means that everyone should do his duty — his duty to himself first, to society second, and to the nation third. I consider that the official radio, like the Army, belongs to the authorities, and we have proved that the legitimate authorties represent the Lebanese people's only road to coexistence.

[As-Sa'id] **What future do you see for the Lebanese media?**

[Shaykhani] Nul n'est parfait. No one is perfect. Everything can be improved, and we have plans at the radio station and the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY which I believe will result in a 200 percent improvement.

For instance, we have a plan — which would have been implemented by now had it not been for the recent incidents — to install a teleprinter in the premises of every NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY subscriber. That means that the agency's news will get to the subscribers immediately. And we were thinking, as a second stage, of installing teleprinters in Tripoli, Ba'labakk, Zahlah, Sidon and, An-Nabatiyah, to cover all of Lebanon. And as a third stage, we were thinking of installing teleprinters in all Lebanese embassies abroad, so that every Lebanese abroad will be able to know what is happening in Beirut as soon as it happens. For the radio station, we have plans for a big expansion that will make Radio Lebanon cover a large part of the Mediterranean area. In short, we have great ambitions for the future. Our ambition is to restore Lebanon's real size and spread its name across the world.

[As-Sa'id] **Yes, but the censorship....**

[Shaykhani] The censorship is another story. At any rate, the foreign correspondents are not subject to censorship at all, because we want everyone to know that we have absolute freedom here and that we have nothing to hide from anyone. Anyone who wishes to come here is welcome to do so, and he will see that we hold freedom sacred.

As for the censorship applied to the Lebanese press....

[As-Sa'id] **....But not to the private Lebanese radio stations....**

[Shaykhani] Before we do anything about those radio stations, we have to find out if they have the legal right to exist, and that matter requires study. So far, we have not been able to study it, for several reasons.

[As-Sa'id] **But why the censorship of the press?**

[Shaykhani] Where the press is concerned, there are two laws that call for censorship and prosecution — Legislative Decree Number One of 1977 and Legislative Decree Number 104 of 1977. You will note that both decrees, which are perhaps unpopular with the press, were the work fo the past regime. Neither had been applied since this regime took over, because there was an agreement between me and the press and editors' syndicates that the press would apply self-censorship. That is something I really must thank them for, because there was total and continuous understanding between us on this matter — on not publishing anything that could damage national unity, anything confession in nature.

However, when the recent developments started, some newspapers got the idea that the authorities had become weak and they started going back to the conditions that existed in 1975, 1976, 1978, etc. This prompted the Public Security Directorate (because the law gies the censorship prerogative to Public Security and not to the Ministry of Information) to reconsidér. At the beginning, everyone was applying self-censorship, but when some journalists, thinking the authorities had become weak, no longer applied it, Public Security had to reconsider its attitude towards the press.

At any rate, I can state definitely that the censorship is not at all harsh and that freedom remains complete — except when it serves to start sectarian disputes or disputes over the unity of the Army and other such important national affairs. As I told you before, freedom does not mean the freedom to shoot someone;

everyone's rights end where the other person's rights begin.

[As-Sa'id] **But many are saying that censorship is meaningless as long as it is applied to the press alone and not to the private radio stations. You say you haven't studied this matter yet?**

[Shaykhani] Let me tell you — this matter proves the democracy of this country.

[As-Sa'id] **What does? The presence of illegal radio stations?**

[Shaykhani] Let me put it this way: To begin with, we must study whether those stations are legal or illegal. That is a legal matter that will be studied in due time. But regarding your point on censorship: The Lebanese Army, in accordance with Legislative Decree Number 10, has full authority over all the security agencies in the country now, including Public Security. The fact that the Army has not made use of these emergency powers (to close the private radio stations) so far is an indication of the Lebanese authorities' love for democracy in this country. Those private radio stations, which may be illegal, are sometimes broadcasting anti-government news, criticizing the ministries and the authorities, etc., and yet the authorities are so far allowing them to go on. The commander of the Army definitely has the right to stop those stations immediately.

[As-Sa'id] **And why hasn't he?**

[Shaykhani] Because we believe that at the present time, all the Lebanese should have the opportunity to express their thoughts, even if their thoughts are against the authorities' methods — but not if they are against the legitimacy of the authorities, because the authorities draw their legitimacy from the law. They drew it, first, from the unanimous election of his excellency the president by Parliament, and second, from the near-unanimous vote of confidence which Parliament gave the government. It is true there is opposition, and opposition is constructive if it is democratic, but when opposition takes the form of guns, it becomes terrorism.

I am a man of dialogue. As a lawyer and as the president of the lawyers' syndicate for seven years, I favor constructive dialogue. What I am doing is definitely not the best that can be done. I am sure there are others who can do a better job. Come and tell me where the shortcomings are so I can do something about them, or come and replace me if you can get a parliamentary majority behind you.

[As-Sa'id] **But aren't you contradicting yourself? You say the presence of possibly illegal radio stations which criticize the authorities is evidence of democracy, but at the same time, the press is being censored because it is criticizing the authorities.**

[Shaykhani] There is no contradiction. No country in the world can accept high treason. We have no state of emergency and we have no emergency courts. The laws that are being applied are the same that are applied in normal times — which is a great thing that you must take into consideration. For instance, have we stopped any newspaper from publishing for good? Never. We go and tell a newspaper: "Be careful — this is not good. We're going to stop you for two days or for five days, and later, you must go back to the self-censorship that we have agreed upon." So freedom is not being touched. On the contrary.

[As-Sa'id] **Are you telling me that the present censorship is a form of self-censorship?**

[Shaykhani] No, of course not. Something has been added to revive self-censorship.

[As-Sa'id] **And the present censorship applies to anything that is said against the government and against the....**

[Shaykhani] Not at all. Look at the newspapers — you will find violent attacks on the government, and perhaps those attacks are justified. I am not against criticism; I am against destruction.

[As-Sa'id] **How long do you think we will have censorship? And what is your answer to those who are saying that the present censorship is undermining the reputation of the Lebanese media in the world?**

[Shaykhani] It's easy to talk. It's easy to come up with statements of that sort to justify one's position. In my opinion, this light, partial censorship is in fact improving Lebanon's position in the world by demonstrating that here we have a government that respects freedom but also respects itself.

[As-Sa'id] **And how long do you think this censorship will stay with us?**

[Shaykhani] As long as the nation is in danger, this light censorship must stay. But when we arrive at total liberation, at the evacuation of all foreign armies from Lebanon, we will return to our former agreement with our friends the publishers and the editors — the agreement that still exists on self-censorship.

Now, not all the press is being censored, in the sense that Public Security is not going to every publication and telling it, "This is all right, that is not." When there are violations against the authorities, against the state, against the nation, we are suspending the violating publication for a day or two. So far, very few have been referred to court.

[As-Sa'id] **Are all publications being censored or not?**

[Shaykhani] In principle, the law must apply to everyone. We can't apply it to one and....

[As-Sa'id] **But is it being applied to all publications?**

[Shaykhani] Of course, of course.

[As-Sa'id] **But you just said that not all publications are being censored.**

[Shaykhani] That is not true. There are no exceptions whatsoever. There is no such thing as a pro-government and an anti-government newspaper. All publications do their duty to the nation, in my view. But when there are sectarian articles or attacks on the Army, these damage the nation, not the government. I wish all publications would criticize the government —

the government is open to criticism and we are living in a parliamentary, democratic system. If we go to Parliament today, I am sure not all deputies will support us. There is opposition, and we welcome constructive opposition.

[As-Sa'id] **To go back to the question of the illegal radio stations. You say that so far, the Army Command....**

[Shaykhani] Not only the Army Command but also the Ministry of Information — we must study this matter at the appropriate time.

[As-Sa'id] **Why hasn't it been studied so far?**

[Shaykhani] It must be studied at the appropriate time.

[As-Sa'id] **Does that mean that circumstances have prevented you from studying it so far?**

[Shaykhani] On the contrary. As I told you, lack of action against those radio stations at the present time is proof of total freedom and democracy. As you know, you can tune in any station now and you are bound to hear criticism of the authorities.

[As-Sa'id] **But don't you think the criticism you hear on those stations is the same kind of destructive criticism which you say justifies the present press censorship?**

[Shaykhani] There may be something in that, and that is why the matter is going to be studied.

[As-Sa'id] **When?**

[Shaykhani] Soon. First I want to preserve my nation before I preserve some of its laws. I want to preserve every handspan of Lebanon's territory first, and then we can start the reconstruction adventure and the adventure of the one united nation. You will note that those are the two trends that we saw in yesterday's meeting at Archbishop Ilyas 'Awdah's, and in last week's meeting of the Islamic groups — we saw, for the first time, a unified perception of Lebanon with its present area, with its present people, and with its present sects. This perception, which is shared by all sects, may be the cornerstone of this nation.

[As-Sa'id] **When the question of the private radio stations is studied, do you think the result may be the application of censorship to those stations?**

[Shaykhani] Not just censorship... Those stations will be found to be either permitted or not permitted. If they are found to be permitted, there will be censorship, and if not...if they have no permit and are broadcasting anyway, there is obviously a violation.

[As-Sa'id] **So you are thinking in terms of closing those stations?**

[Shaykhani] This is a political subject. Permit me not to answer the question.

[As-Sa'id] **There is law which calls for the closure of publications that have no political license. Why hasn't it been applied?**

[Shaykhani] If you're talking of the publications that were started without licenses during the war, they fall in the same category with the private radio stations. The matter will be studied and the appropriate legal action will be taken at the appropriate time.

[As-Sa'id] **There has been much criticism of Lebanese television, first because of the lack of variety in the programs in recent times and second because of the newscasts — some are saying that the newscasts give more lectures than news. Do you have any plans to raise the standards of Lebanese television?**

[Shaykhani] I would like to tell you, to begin with, that the Ministry of Information has no direct authority over the television. A government commission at the television station has had censorship authority in recent times, but Lebanese television is in fact a private company. True, the government holds 50 percent of the shares, but it is still a shareholding company and therefore has the commercial freedoms stipulated in the commercial law. It is free to act in accordance with its internal bylaws, which are on record in the commercial register and at the Court of Beirut.

But it is easy to criticize the television. When a person finishes his day's work, goes home and turns on the television, he expects to see what he personally likes to see. I may like to see myself on television, and you may tell me that you don't like to see my face on the screen, for instance. And I would prefer to have the Lebanese see what happened on the Suq al-Gharb front than to show them what is happening in San Salvador....

So it's easy to criticize television. I believe television has definitely improved. Of course there's criticism, but when you see the equipment they have and what six or seven people are doing over 24 hours at the television....I think it is our duty to thank them. Their equipment is over 20 years old. Recently, the Ministry of Information presented one new camera to the television company as a gift. You find a similar situation in the matter of the staff. Despite all the good work the boys are doing up there, there is a manpower shortage: They need more editors, more commentators....These are all things that need improvement, and they will definitely be improved soon if we are given a breathing space. Don't forget that the other night the newscast was delayed for 15 minutes because the news studio itself was being shelled.

[As-Sa'id] **But there are other programs which have nothing to do with the news which are being repeated over and over again, like Abu Salim and Abu Milhim....**

[Shaykhani] Those haven't been on for six months. We are trying to come up with good new programs, but these things need time. You know, for instance, that the newscast needs four hours of preparation.

[As-Sa'id] **But you don't agree with those who are saying that the newscasts are biased and that they are more lectures than newscasts?**

[Shaykhani] There is no bias. There is a presentation of views, and whoever wishes to express an opinion is welcome. The day Parliament voted on the Lebanese-Israeli agreement bill (it's still a bill because it hasn't been promulgated yet), the deputies who

opposed the agreement came to the television and expressed their views.

[As-Sa'id] **People are complaining about the way the news is presented....**

[Shaykhani] And that is why we probably should have a newscast manager.

[As-Sa'id] **You don't have one?**

[Shaykhani] No. They're working as a team. We're thinking of hiring a manager.

[As-Sa'id] **Those who are accusing the official media of bias mean that those media concentrate on one Lebanese party and one political trend. What is your comment on that?**

[Shaykhani] The official media are definitely biased in favor of Lebanon, but they are by no means biased in favor of any Lebanese party at the expense of another. Of course the official media are biased in favor of Lebanon, because if they turn against Lebanon, there will be no Lebanon left. I am all in favor of freedom, but the limit of freedom is the freedom of other people, and what applies to people applies to the nation. I am free to defend my nation; indeed, it is my duty to defend it. But I am not free to destroy my nation, because my nation is not mine alone; it belongs to every Lebanese, regardless of his sect or party membership.

[As-Sa'id] **How do you evaluate the role of the foreign press in Lebanon, especially in the past few weeks?**

[Shaykhani] As I told you, foreign correspondents have the full freedom to say what they want. The way this freedom is used is subject, whether we like it or not, to several influences. It is subject, first to emotional influences, and second to the influence of interests, and third to the geographic location of the foreign correspondent.

I am, of course, grateful to some foreign correspondents because they see the Lebanese reality as it is, but I have some criticism as well. And the fact that I allow foreign correspondents to criticize me makes me respect myself even more.

[As-Sa'id] **What are those correspondents criticizing?**

[Shaykhani] Sometimes, there is bias, there is slanted news, there is the adoption of positions dictated by a correspondent's own political position. But as that correspondent criticizes me, I too have the right to criticize him.

[As-Sa'id] **In other words, you are saying that some foreign correspondents are taking sides with one party against the other?**

[Shaykhani] Perhaps. I am all in favor of rational criticism, because no one is perfect: Any man in government is criticized, and the man who succeeds him and does better than him is also criticized. That is democracy. If we prohibit criticism, we prohibit democracy, and that is one thing we will not do.

[As-Sa'id] **How hopeful are you that the cease-fire in the mountains will hold?**

[Shaykhani] His excellency the president has said that if they give him five minutes with another Lebanese, he can reach an understanding with him. No genuine Lebanese can possibly seek the destruction of his own country. We must arrive at an agreement. But if other elements are injected into a Lebanese-Lebanese agreement, I don't know how much those elements will influence the will of one party or another.

[As-Sa'id] **Are you optimistic that the dialogue will start and lead to a Lebanese agreement that ends the crisis in this country?**

[Shaykhani] Of course I hope that this dialogue will produce the desired result, because it is unacceptable for us to go on fighting and our children — all our children — to go on being killed. I am not talking about any one group to the exclusion of another. All our Lebanese children are fighting, although some of them, it is true, have external support. But I am against violence. I am a man of peace, a man of dialogue, and I do not for one moment believe that any Lebanese party of good will can fail to agree with another Lebanese party of good will.

[As-Sa'id] **What are your expectations for the future should the dialogue collapse?**

[Shaykhani] Why be pessimistic? I have told you, and I repeat emphatically, that there is a unanimous Lebanese will to coexist, to consider Lebanon the homeland of all the Lebanese once and for all, and to engage in dialogue to that end. Given these three things, I don't think it is possible for us to reach a dead end.

[As-Sa'id] **Regarding the legislative decrees that have been issued in the information field....**

[Shaykhani] Laws have been issued to reorganize the Ministry of Information, but to be applied, these need organizational decrees, and we will prepare those decrees as soon as we finish with the larger national issues.

There is another decree which amends Decree 47 on the sale of publications. The amendments are slight. They relate, for instance, to the maximum permissible number of newspapers and magazines in the country. We put the maximum number of newspapers at 25, for instance, and today we have 12 to 15 newspapers. This means that we are in favor of more newspapers but not a surplus of newspapers. Today, there are 58 licenses for daily newspapers, but only 12 or 14 or 16 are being published. When we set the limit at 25, we are being liberal; we are not repressing, but we are preventing a huge surplus.

We are also thinking, in agreement with the press syndicate, of giving the government priority in the purchase of publications. In other words, if a publication is offered for sale and the Ministry of Information considers that the purchase of that publication would serve state interests, it has the right to buy it itself. It can't force the owner to sell the publication, of course, but if he offers it for sale, the state has priority.

[As-Sa'id] **When will these decrees be implemented?**

[Shaykhani] Like the rest of the 150 decrees, they have to be published in the *Official Gazette* first, and that will take work and time. But they will be implemented.

Birri Reaffirms Support for State's 'Just Hegemony'

NC041356 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] In response to reports about plans to establish a Shi'ite canton in the south, Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri affirmed a short while ago that the Amal Movement will fight any canton and any partition. He again stressed that the Amal Movement upholds Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence and the state's just hegemony over all Lebanese territory, and it will not accept any substitute for that.

Urges Nonsectarian State

GF041220 Doha QNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Oct (QNA) — Lebanese Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has stressed that now that the cease-fire has been achieved everybody is looking forward to national reconciliation in order to establish a homeland for all Lebanese in a just state. He added: The Amal Movement has no demands except the ensuring of justice and equality for all Lebanese factions and in all Lebanese regions without any discrimination and the establishment of a just, nonsectarian state that is not dominated by sectarian privileges.

In a statement published in today's issue of the newspaper *Al-Ittihad, he said that he will demand the annulment of the* 1943 declaration which perpetuated sectarianism in Lebanon. He pointed out that the war which Lebanon has experienced over the past years proves that this charter in no longer valid and that it has to be cancelled in toto. He added that once agreement is reached on the Lebanon of the future and on reconciliation among all the Lebanese factions, we will hand over our weapons to the state and direct our attention to the south, where the enemy is trying to consolidate its presence by following its partial withdrawal from the mountain region.

Shi'ite Community To Foil Israeli Attempts

NC041230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Attention was drawn today to a report carried by Israeli radio — which has been known for some days now — that the Israeli army is training some members of the Shi'ite community in the south. The radio was eager to mention that it was quoting AFP.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, and other political leaders in the community, had warned of the Israeli aims behind this and pointed out that Israel is preparing to create incidents and sedition similar to those created in Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh. It is clear from the statements made by Shaykh Shams ad-Din, the Amal Movement's leadership, and the political leaders in the Shi'ite community that there is a unanimous Shi'ite stand to confront the Israelis' efforts and to foil its plans.

IDF Building Two Airfields in South

NC041258 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Reports from the south indicate that the Israeli army is making preparations for building a military airfield in Anan township in the Jazzin district. It was reported yesterday that another airfield is about to be completed in Al-Khiyam township near Marj 'Uyun.

IDF Withdraws Missiles From Al-Baruk Hills

NC050711 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] For the first time since the Israeli incursion in June 1982, the Israeli forces have withdrawn from the Al-Baruk hills during the last 36 hours several antiaircraft ground-to-air missile launchers and U.S.-made Hawk missiles. Last Monday, military trailers were seen in Al-Biqa' carrying three missiles each, which were camouflaged. These trailers proceeded toward Israel via Kafr Mishki, Al-Hasbani, and Bawwabat al-Mtullah. A rotation of the Israeli armored forces was also observed in the Al-Biqa' front.

Syria, Fatah Reinforce Positions in North

NC041954 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Syrian forces recently dispatched some 400 elements of the As-Sa'iqah organization to Tripoli. The Syrians have also sent the [Palestinian] Al-Yarmuk Brigade to the (Irdih) and (Jabal Qurbul) area. Meanwhile, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has instructed his fighters to build fortifications around the Fatah offices in Tripoli and to take all the necessary precautionary measures to confront the expected Syrian attacks. It has also been learned that a ship unloaded its cargo of arms for Fatah at a port near Tripoli last night. In another development, Syria sent 150 intelligence men to Tripoli and distributed fresh arms among the 'Alawites in the Ba'l Muhsin area. The Voice of Lebanon has also learned that the Syrian authorities have arrested three Syrian Sunnite officers for releasing some 'Arafat loyalists.

Syria Releases 1,200 Druze To Join Junblatt

NC050704 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] Within the framework of reinforcing the step taken by [Progressive Socialist Party leader] Walid Junblatt, Syria has released 1,200 Druze from its Army to join Junblatt's armed men. These men have now arrived in 'Alayh. Meanwhile, an Ahmad al-Khatib [commander of the Arab Army of Lebanon] armored forces has deployed in the government school in Hammana.

While there are conflicting reports about Major Sa'd Haddad's health, information indicates that the Israelis are setting up a civil administration in the south which will be headed by an individual from the area as Governor Halim Fayyad has been dismissed.

Other information indicates that Israel has started to establish a camp near the Ansar township to train some Sunnites. At the same time, some 1,500 Shi'ites are being trained in a camp in the Saff al-Hawa area.

RFL on Security Situation in Tripoli, Beirut,
NC050733 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] Severe anxiety is prevailing in Tripoli that clashes between armed organizations and between Syrians and Palestinians may be renewed. This fear was indicated by Yasir 'Arafat. Gunfire was heard until a late hour last night in various Tripoli areas, particularly in the main streets.

Lebanese Army positions in Beirut's southern suburbs early this morning came under bursts of medium-caliber weapons fire by communist gunmen and their associates from their positions in Ash-Shiyah.

VOAL on Phalangist Actions in Al-Kharrub Area
NC051021 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] The Phalangist militias today intensified their unethical actions against the citizens in Al-Kharrub region, where they are practicing kidnapping, shelling, and sniping against the region's inhabitants. Our correspondent in the region indicates that this morning the militias shelled Barja township for 30 minutes. A fire broke out in a house in the township. The Phalangist militias have kidnapped Mahmud 'Ali Kahhul, Marwan Muhammad ash-Sham'ah, and Basim Wafiq ash-Sham'ah, all of whom are from Barja. They were later released after being subjected to torture and coercion.

Our correspondent adds that the militias are still besieging Barja al-Mughayriyah from the direction of 'Alman, Majdaluna, and Dayr al-Mukhallis and are opening sniper fire on the roads leading to the two townships. The Ar-Rumaylah-'Alman-Al-Jumayliyah road is cut because of the kidnapping operations practiced by the Phalangist militias against the region's inhabitants. The Hasrut-Gharifah road is also cut because of sniper fire.

Meanwhile, the militias have diverted the traffic through Al-Jiyah to a secondary road near Dayr al-Jiyah, which the militias are using as a military station for torture. Kidnapped persons are being detained there. The Phalangist militias have set up a roadblock near An-Na'imah police station. At 1100 the militias set up a roadblock on the Ad-Damur bridge where freight vehicles are confiscated and forced to transport sand to the militias positions in the area for fortification.

In the southern suburb of Beirut, the Ash-Shiyah-'Ayn ar-Rummanah axis is witnessing sporadic sniper fire, but no casualties have been reported. Guarded calm prevails in the Suq al-Gharb area, and no significant incidents have been reported today.

Major Haddad Comments on AL-'AMAL Report
JN040944 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Major Sa'd Haddad, commander of free Lebanon, this morning stated the following:

In its 2 October 1983 issue, the great newspaper *Al-'Amal* reported that the majority of the free Lebanon army members are Shi'te and that Israel is preparing another Sa'd Haddad from among the south Lebanese Amal leaders to take command of this army. The reports also said that Israel has given the Lebanese Forces in particular and the Christians in general, the choice of either joining this army or evacuating from the south. The newspaper has appealed to Nabih Birri to explain this partitioning measure by Amal Movement elements.

On our part, Maj Haddad said: We cannot remain silent and not comment on these tendentious reports, because they are directed against free Lebanon. In light of this, we would like the Lebanese in general and the sons of free Lebanon in particular to understand that we are proud that the free Lebanon Army has among its ranks Shi'ites, Druze, and Christians on equal footing.

Speaking about the fact that the majority of this army are Shi'ite, Maj Haddad said: There is no answer to this despite the fact that I personally enlist any new member. He added: I have never asked the sect of any new member. The only thing I ask, Haddad said, is whether this new member is sincere on the Lebanese issue, is concerned about the formula of coexistence, is ready to sacrifice even his life for Lebanon and its flag, and aspires to a free, sovereign, and independent Lebanon. Haddad added: If all the answers to these questions are positive, then we allow this new member to join our ranks; otherwise, we reject him.

Speaking about the reports that Israel is preparing another Sa'd Haddad to take command of this army, Maj Haddad said: Those who say so must understand that basically, Israel did not appoint Maj Haddad to be able, at any time it likes, to change him, because firstly Maj Haddad was assigned to this post by the Lebanese legitimacy before it completely submitted to the occupying 'Alawite regime. Secondly, Maj Haddad is building this army out of faith in his homeland and is protecting it with all possible means. Maj Haddad added: This army will not accept any commander other than Maj Haddad, especially since most of the homeland territories are still under the yoke of foreign occupations and the destiny of the homeland is in danger. Instead of benefiting from the prospects that were offered to it, the Lebanese Government preferred to ignore those prospects, risk the homeland's destiny, and see tragedies befall the Lebanese people without evoking the tears of the Lebanese officials.

Regarding the reports that Israel has given the Lebanese Forces

and the Christians the choice of either joining the free Lebanon army or evacuating from the south, Maj Haddad said: This is a contradiction in itself, because if Israel seeks to establish a pure Shi'ite army with the objective of partition, then why does it call on the Lebanese Forces and the Christians to join this army which will eventually have a Christian majority? Moreover, and for the information of whoever it may concern, Haddad said: Since 1977, we have fought or resisted with fighters belonging to all sects. In 1982, when we began to form these forces in a manner similar to the Lebanese Army so as to further crystallize the formula of national unity, members belonging to all sects joined this army. Only the Phalangists who were present in the region withdrew under the pretext that they had received orders from their command in Beirut to the effect that they must not serve with the Muhammadan groups. Thus, Haddad asks: Who is seeking partition, Israel and the Shi'ites or other groups? Haddad wonders: Are they irritated by the ideal formula of coexistence which is present in the south and absent in the remaining areas?

Maj Haddad continues: I advise every Christian who believes in those principles and cannot tolerate the formula of coexistence to look after his own interests and go and live in Kasrawan where the pure Christian homeland is. Haddad continues: But here, we will not allow anyone to disrupt this formula of coexistence, because we believe that the salvation of Lebanon lies in this formula. But if the Lebanese Forces are concerned about themselves and the Christians, then they should cooperate with the Lebanese Army so as to regain Ash-Shuf, Bhamdun, and 'Alayh to return the Christian evacuees to where they came from.

Maj Haddad said: Before appealing to Nabih Birri, I advise the one who made this appeal to exert efforts to return the southern suburbs evacuees to their homes and to stop torturing them. Maj Haddad said: I do not think that Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil approves of the *Al-'Amal* method. We hope that he personally will intervene to convince *Al-'Amal* and the Voice of Lebanon to refrain from sectarian instigation, and we thank him in advance. Maj Haddad was admitted to Haifa's Rambam hospital for medical checkups and would be discharged within the next 48 hours.

Junblatt, Papandreou Meet, Make Statements

For Athens reportage on Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt's meeting with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and their statements following the meeting, see the Greece section ofthe 5 October Western Europe *Daily Report*.

'Informed' Source Denies Seizure of Fatah Offices

JN041535 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus, 4 Oct (SANA) — In reply to reports disseminated by some news agencies on claims made by 'Arafat's group that the Syrian authorities have seized Fatah offices and handed them over to the opposition, an informed source stated the following:

These claims are ridiculous because this is not the first time that such fabricated reports have been disseminated, especially since it has become clear to all that 'Arafat's group always holds others responsible for their failure to lead Fatah and their disregard of the escalating support which is extended day after day to the uprising against the political, organizational, financial, and military deviations of 'Arafat's leadership.

The informed source added: The best example of the truth of what we say is yesterday's announcement which stated that a new group comprising a large number of the Fatah movement's officers and operations cadres have joined the opposition movement. These officers declared in front of a large number of press and news media correspondents that they have joined the opposition movement after waiting a long time and after despair of any possibility of having their leadership respond to the opposition movement's just demands and embark on the necessary reforms.

The informed source concluded: Anyone wantinf to know the facts can obtain them not only from the Fatah opposition leadership, but also from any other resistance faction in the country [Syria].

Radio Monte Carlo Interviews Khaddam on UN Meetings

JN041908 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Telephone dispatch from Basim al-Mu'allim, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in the United States, on 4 October — recorded]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held a series of meetings before he left New York for home today. One of the most prominent meetings was the one he held with Walid Junblatt's envoy Marwan Hamadah, who arrived in this city last night and met with the Arab League secretary general and some Arab foreign ministers. We had the following conversation with Khaddam:

[Khaddam] We are surprised at this fabricated clamor against Junblatt, who is a Lebanese nationalist leader who did not hesitate for a moment to work for a unified and Arab-affiliated Lebanon. We are surprised at this clamor despite the fact that there is someone who established a real state in part of Lebanon in the truest sense of the word. He established a state, institutions, and army. Nevertheless, no word was said criticizing this. However, when Walid Junblatt adopted some organizational measures to overcome the results of the civil war, such a campaign, in which opportunism is obvious, was launched. We believe that Walid Junblatt is a nationalist leader who is sincere to Lebanon's unity and Arabism.

[Al-Mu'allim] I note that you abstained from commenting on Raymond Iddih.

[Khaddam] In fact, during the discussions held on the formation of a national dialogue committee, it was the Syrian side which nominated Raymond Iddih to be a member in this committee. He is a Lebanese leader who represents a large trend in Lebanon. Therefore, it is natural for him to be among those who hold dialogue for the restoration of the country's unity and the realization of its national safety.

[Al-Mu'allim] What about Shultz' meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko? [Question as heard]

[Khaddam] The main topic discussed during talks with Shultz dealt with the Lebanese question. We held a discussion on the civil war taking place in Lebanon and on the means to end this war. Top among the issues submitted by Shultz was the possibility of providing UN observers provided that the United Nations has cease-fire supervisors. We rejected this idea for the following reasons:

1. What is taking place in Lebanon is a civil war and an internal affair. Sending UN observers would be a grave precedent of interference in other states' internal affairs.

2. Submitting the issue to the Security Council in order to appoint UN observers constitutes a violation of the agreement reached a few days ago, according to which a cease-fire was enforced. This agreement stipulated the presence of neutral observers. When we discussed this subject during our contacts before the agreement was reached, the idea of UN observers was raised, but it was rejected by most sides. Therefore, this idea was avoided and replaced by the expression of neutral observers.

3. The status of UN observers will lead to [words indistinct]. In other words, it will lead to [words indistinct]. We want an end to this abnormal situation in this fraternal country. We do not want a consecration of the state of partition through the presence of UN observers along the cease-fire lines separating the conflicting forces. We did not reach an agreement with Shultz on this subject. In my opinion the aim of raising the issue of UN observers is to give legitimacy to the Multinational Forces as there is an inclination to affiliate some of these forces with the UN umbrella if this is approved. We are absolutely [word indistinct] every possibility regarding this matter. We have adopted a clear stand which we communicated to the UN secretary general and the foreign ministers of France, Italy, and Britain, who are concerned with the Multinational Forces. During meetings with them I asked them to withdraw their forces from Lebanon because these forces pose a blatant interference in the internal affairs of a fraternal Arab country.

[Al-Mu'allim] How did each of them reply to this request for the withdrawal of the Multinational Forces from Beirut?

[Khaddam] [Words indistinct] that they are present at the request of the legitimate government. Discussions were held on the legitimacy of their presence in Lebanon. We are convinced that the continuation of their presence there poses a serious threat to Lebanon's security and even to the security of the entire region.

Damascus Commentary on U.S.-Zionist 'Map'

JN041629 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has prepared a map for Lebanon and the Middle East as if the region is one of its protectorates in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, as if the Arab land is a desert without inhabitants, or as if the United States has the right to be the discoverer of this land and the guardian of its wealth, seas, and even its civilization, which the U.S. Administration does not recognize. The Reagan administration refuses to recognize any existence on the Middle East map except that of the Zionist's. Consequently, the Reagan administration approves any border adjustments and draws up maps and plans in accordance with timetables that suit the programmed Zionist invasions, aggressions, or Jewish immigration to enable the Zionist soldiers to settle in any land that they can reach. Lebanon is required to accept border adjustments in Israel's interests and at the expense of the Lebanese people to render the diplomacy of U.S. solutions successful. Moreover, all the Arabs are required to recognize the alleged Israeli biblical rights and to eliminate their existence and history because the Israelis are a superior race. As for Palestine, the Arabs should accept Israel as an alternative entity.

These are the basic elements of the U.S. solutions to the Middle East conflict, and they conform in form and content to the resolutions fo the Zionist conferences and the recommendations of the biblical allegations as well as to the spiteful trend to the Zionists of the world. As long as the U.S. strategy meets the requirements of the Zionist dreams, it is not unusual for the United States to move in this direction or propose solutions that suit what the Reagan administration calls Israel's security demands. What is more strange is that some Arabs are more enthusiastic about U.S. plans than Israel's rulers. The Lebanese ruler has pledged to the U.S. President to make concessions on some parts of southern Lebanon on condition that the Israeli forces protect his authority and his party's aim to sever Lebanon from the Arab body. The Jumayyil government uses the Egyptian regime as an example to justify its agentry to Israel without knowing that Egypt's rulers admit that they were humiliated by the Israeli arrogance and U.S. control of Egypt's fate with the aim of ending its strength and weight in Israel's interest and in the interest of the Zionist aspirations to a state from the Euphrates to the Nile.

Just as the United States was able to exploit many Arab positions to serve its strategies, it is also aware that decisionmaking is still in Arabs' hands and that the October war is still alive in the souls of all the Arabs regardless of the fact that the United States affects some Arab regimes' decisionmaking. Confrontation will continue as long as Israeli occupation of the Arab lands and U.S. refusal to recognize Palestinian existence and the Palestinian people's rights in their national soil continue. There is no doubt that the United States is able to move its naval and air fleets in more than one direction and over more that one Arab country. But at the same time, it is aware of the possible dangers. The Arab homeland is neither a U.S. protectorate nor a land without history or people. The United States should anticipate many surprises that will reverse its concepts and affirm that the spirit of the liberational October war will continue to live in Arab soul and that our national feelings that protect the Arab heritage will not be affected by political or defeatist maps or by those who lost their decisionmaking power. Those are accused and isolated by their Arab masses.

AL-BA'TH on Lebanese Officers Bhamdun Statement

JN041616 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing in its "Opinion" column under the headline "The Bhamdun Statement and the Principle of National Accord," *Al-Ba'th* says: In view of the fact that the current regime in Beirut lacks national identity and that the alliance of Phalangist groups, which habrors age-old hostility to the Arab nation, is dominating that regime and dictating its policy, the nationalist forces in Lebanon had to express their political will and national opposition by any means —hence the emergence of the National Salvation Front and its political manifesto, which expresses the aspirations of the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces to change the present Lebanese reality and assert the country's sovereignty and freedom.

Realizing its inability confront this broad popular political force by democratic means —since it lacks the basic principles for dialogue and is unable under any circumstances to convince the Lebanese Arabs that their interest lies in accepting the occupation, disavowing the Arabs and Arabdom, and giving up the interests of Beirut, Damascus and the Arab homeland for the sake of the interests of the United States and Zionism — the factional regime in Beirut tried the language of military force. It gave orders to its army —an army hurriedly formed in line with the regime's objectives and commanded by a group of Phalangist diehards and whose effective forces are essentially composed of fighters subject to Phalangist hegemony —to launch an all-out atack on the southern suburb of Beirut and the Ash-Shuf mountains to achieve a quick military victory which would cancel any role by the nationalist forces in determining Lebanon's future. Therefore, the nationalists had no choice but to take the challenge, depending only on their faith in Lebanon's Arabism and on Syria, an ally which cannot tolerate any tampering with Lebanon's Arabism.

That military adventure, which continued for more than 3 weeks in the southern suburb and the mountain and in which the Multinational Force stood side by side with the Phalangist army and militias by raiding and shelling nationalist strongholds and positions from the sea, resulted, as everyone knows, in the defeat of the Phalangist-U.S.-Zionist alliance. This prompted the Beirut rulers to accept the principle of dialogue to achieve national accord which would lead to Lebanon's national unity and to rectifying the improper balance that had existed on Lebanese soil.

It was on this basis that a cease-fire was achieved. It was also on this basis that nationalist elements in the Lebanese Army reorganized themselves when they discovered the game and the plot which could have done away with the Army. That Army was

prevented from fighting the Zionist enemy and was used instead to fight Lebanese nationalists in the southern suburb and the mountains. The statement which was announced the day before yesterday in Bhamdun in the name of hundreds of Lebanese officers and men was the outcome of the suffering of the Lebanese soldier, who was torn between obeying the military orders of his commanders who were colluding with the enemy or heeding national duty which calls on him to fight the enemy in defense of the homeland. The Lebanese officers and men heeded national duty. They refused to involve the Army in a fabricated battle between Lebanese. They preferred to be the defenders of national unity and the principle of national accord which leads to sovereignty and liberation from the Zionist invasion. We say that the statement issued the day before yesterday by the Lebanese Army officers and men is a warning to the Phalangist regime and its institutions, which are now calling for repeating the adventure by entering the southern suburb and the mountain by armed force until the national accord option is dropped and replaced by martial law protected by NATO fleets and the Zionist invasion army.

The National Salvation Front and the hundreds of officers and men who openly declared their stand the day before yesterday in Bhamdun are proceeding toward accord with all their national principles and full obligations to Arab Lebanon and Lebanon's obligations to them and are giving evidence daily that they adhere to a unified, free, democratic Arab Lebanon whose voice and decision shall only be in the Lebanese and Arab interests at any cost regardless of the power, plans, and weapons of the hostile forces.

Delay in Lebanese National Dialogue Talks Noted

JN050751 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Regarding the current events in the Lebanese arena and the Lebanese regime's attempts to obstruct national accord, and under the headline "The Phalangist Rule and the Losing Wagers" *Ath-Thawrah* says: Two weeks have passed since the cease-fire decision and the regime that is ruling in Beirut continues to procrastinate on the issue of starting a national dialogue and to avoid defining a clear stand on it. In doing so, the regime is exacerbating the situation at a time when the question is whether Lebanon will continue to exist or not. This fateful choice should have urged the Lebanese regime to move away to some extent from the process of maneuvering and laying political ambushes to that of expressing good intentions, preparing for dialogue, and admitting that important changes have taken place on the ground.

Ath-Thawrah adds: In the event that this regime continues to be intransigent and to ignore the realities that were brought about by the war in the mountain, the one-tenth of the Lebanese territories which it controls may diminish much more and the war of the mountain may recur in other forms and in other areas.

The time has come for the regime to realize that a U.S. solution is a mirage, that an Israeli solution means destruction for all, and that a constructive and effective national dialogue is the only course that will prevent Lebanon's partitioning. It is also the best means to avert more tragedies and tribulations away from this country.

Ath-Thawrah concludes: The regime's hesitation to begin such a dialogue will be a direct contribution to Lebanon's destruction as every day that passes brings new complications and any solution to the crisis becomes more remote. Thus, Lebanon will continue to be easily affected by any political, military, or social storm. The Lebanese regime, then, will be largely responsible for not benefiting from the opportunity of saving Lebanon and of safeguarding its existence, freedom, independence, and Arab affiliation.

Talks With Romanian Party Delegation Begin

JN041348 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The first session of talks was held in Damascus today between an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, and a Romanian Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Iosif Banc, member of the Political Executive Committee and secretary of the Central Committee.

Talks focused on the importance of developing the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and two countries in accordance with the bases and principles laid down by President Hafiz al-Asad and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Talks Continue 4 Oct

JN050846 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] Party talks were resumed in Damascus yesterday between an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, and a Romanian Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Iosif Banc, member of the Political Executive Committee and secretary of the Central Committee. The session was attended by 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon.

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar spoke about the current development in Syria in various walks of life and about the great achievements and developments that have been attained through the economic and social development process. He noted that these achievements are being made in implementation of the resolutions of the Ba'th Party congress.

Comrade al-Ahmar reviewed developments in the Arab region and the recent events in the Lebanese arena stemming from the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the U.S.-Zionist scheme which seeks to make Lebanon a subservient country and transform it into a U.S.-Zionist protectorate. He also outlined the Phalangists' attempts to impose their hegemony on Lebanon, which resulted in an eruption of fighting to settle the issue in a military

manner in the interest of the Phalangists' attempts at hegemony. He said that the parties to the conspiratorial scheme failed to achieve their objective in spite of the direct and blatant U.S. interference in Lebanon.

Comrade al-Ahmar recalled what President Hafiz al-Asad stated: That Syria will not be frightened by fleets and aircraft carriers, and that it will confront any aggression against its security and that of the Arab nation, and any aggression against their just cause. Comrade al-Ahmar concluded: We are working for peace and have no other choice but to defend the independence and rights of our people and nation.

Briefs

Ambassadors Present Credentials — President Hafiz al-Asad today received the credentials of PRC Ambassador Lin Zhaonan, Senegalese Ambassador Ibra Deguene Ka, and Canadian Ambassador Robert David Jackson. [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Oct 83 JN]

Modified Hawk Reportedly Downs MIG-25 in 1982
TA051030 Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post in English 5 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] An Air Force Hawk missile, with a secret Israeli modification to the U.S. weapon, shot down a MIG-25 over Beirut on August 30, 1982, thus becoming the first weapon shown to be capable of overpowering the sophisticated Soviet plane. This was reported by Israel TV. It said last night the MIG-25 was the most advanced Soviet aircraft, and that no weapon in Western arsenals had been able to contend with its speed and climbing capability.

McFarlane Briefs Arens on Talks in Lebanon
TA041016 Tel Aviv Ha'aretz in Hebrew 4 Oct 83 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane arrived in Israel yesterday for the first time since he began contacts to achieve a cease-fire in Lebanon. He met with Defense Minister Moshe Arens last night, and today he will meet with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

It has been learned that the U.S. envoy briefed Arens on the U.S. contacts with all the sides in Lebanon in preparation for the reconciliation conference and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from that country. McFarlane assessed the chances of reaching a settlement that would include the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon, and the two men discussed the Druze demands, which tend toward isolationism. In McFarlane's talk with Shamir today, the matter of the U.S. rapprochement with Syria will apparently be raised. The *Ha'aretz* correspondent has learned that Washington is getting ready for the possibility of the division of Lebanon into Druze and Christian cantons, and that it has serious doubts that the Israeli-Lebanese agreement will be implemented soon. Shamir will apparently make it clear that Israel will not carry out any more significant withdrawals in Lebanon as long as Syria does not show willingness to evacuate its forces.

The United States continues to declare its commitment to the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, but Jerusalem observers expressed doubt yesterday concerning the ability of the United States to compel President Amin al-Jumayyil to implement the agreement.

Jerusalem political sources think that the United States will try to appease Syria and try to exploit the reconciliation talks and the cease-fire to reach an agreement with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, while at the same time making internal arrangements between the Druze and Christians.

Shamir Meets McFarlane
TA041634 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Israel is very worried about the Syrian involvement in Lebanon following the cease-fire agreement, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told U.S. envoy Robert McFarlane today. Shamir explained that Israel does not support Druze autonomy in Lebanon. Here is a report by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel:

[Begin recording] Although originally McFarlane came to report, the more pressing need was to calm Jerusalem down. Taking his words at face value, there is no change in U.S. policy in Lebanon. He claims the United States still firmly supports the Israeli-Lebanese accord. Nonetheless, Israel is worried and this concern was the focus of Minister Shamir's remarks. He said we welcome the cease-fire but are afraid of the political aspect of the cease-fire agreement. The impression is that the agreement has granted the Syrians a foothold in the handling of Lebanon's affairs. This additional Syrian influence will lead to greater terrorist activity against Israel through Syria's lackeys in Lebanon. McFarlane replied by saying that it was not the Americans who initiated the incorporation of Damascus in the conciliation conference, but rather various elements in Syria.

Shamir asked whether the reports alleging that the upcoming conference will discuss the future of the Israeli-Lebanese accord are true, and McFarlane replied: The Lebanese do not want to broach this issue at the conference.

The U.S. envoy believes that the political solution to the Lebanese issue depends on the establishment of a Lebanese government that will include the broadest spectrum of forces active in that country. In regard to the Syrians, he said they should be persuaded politically, not militarily, to leave Lebanon. It is important that the Syrians realize they are under no threat from the Lebanese border.

Shamir denied reports that he supports Druze autonomy in Lebanon. He said that Israel still wants to have a strong central government in Beirut.

Let us point out that McFarlane's visit to Jerusalem was the first since the Israeli withdrawal to the Al-Awwali and add that for more than 1 month Israel has steered clear of political events in Lebanon. Now McFarlane promises, following the cease-fire, that he plans to devote time to the Israeli angle of the arrangements [hesderim] in Lebanon as well. This afternoon, at the end of his meeting in Jerusalem, the U.S. envoy returned to Beirut. [end recording]

Hospital Denies Maj Haddad Terminally Ill
TA041639 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] There is no truth to the reports that Major Sa'd Haddad's condition is critical, the doctors treating him at Rambam Hospital in Haifa told our Haifa correspondent Qobi Mandel:

[Begin recording] [Mandel] The doctors in the internal medicine department at Rambam Hospital, where Maj Haddad is currently hospitalized, do not understand what all the commotion and panic is about and are annoyed with the reports alleging that his condition is critical. Haddad is feeling well, people here have said, and he is not suffering from any specific ailment. This morning, I was told, Maj Haddad toured the Persian garden and

the Merkaz Hakarmel streets and some friends and relatives could be seen near his room this afternoon.

The Rambam Hospital director, Prof Yosef Brandeiss, refused to either confirm or deny the rumors that Maj Haddad has cancer and said this about his condition:

[Brandeiss] He is improving, compared to yesterday and the day before. He is mobile and moves about the hospital, feeling better. [end recording]

IDF Reportedly Training Shi'ites in S. Lebanon
TA041116 Tel Aviv Hatzofe in Hebrew 4 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] The IDF has started training hundreds of Lebanese Shi'ites in southern Lebanon, local Sidon area correspondents have reported. The correspondents, citing Lebanese police sources, said that the "military exercises began in Saff al-Hawa', near Bint Jubayl," 5 km from the Israeli border. This town is controlled by Major Sa'd Haddad's men.

The police sources said that the Shi'ites will form the basis of a new army to be named the "Shi'ite Army," and that its headquarters will be in a "Lebanese Army barracks in an-Nabatiyah," northwest of Metulla.

The sources also said that the new army will be set up "outside the framework of Haddad's militia or that of any other existing militia in southern Lebanon."

Fire Directed At IDF Patrol Near Tyre
TA041451 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] An RPG was fired and light arms fire was directed this afternoon at an IDF convoy southeast of Tyre. No one was hurt. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a guard accompanying the convoy immediately began searching and found bazooka projectiles and magazines left behind by the terrorists. Seventeen attacks have been attempted in this area in the last few weeks.

Sharon Gives Views on Lebanon, Palestinians, Iraq
PM041514 Paris Le Figaro in French 30 Sep 83 pp 1,4

[Interview with Israeli Minister Without Portfolio Ariel Sharon by Patrick Wajsman in Paris — date not given]

[Excerpts] Patrick Wajsman: General Sharon, would you still say that the Israeli troops' entry into Lebanon was a success?

Ariel Sharon: As you know, the PLO succeeded in turning Lebanon into the kingdom of local, regional, and international terrorism. All the terrorist movements in the world were linked to Beirut — the Lebanese capital itself being linked to Moscow. However, that situation was destroyed by our intervention which, in a way, constituted the first antiterrorist war in history. Moreover, you yourself have been able to observe that terrorism has decreased in Europe since Operation "Peace in Galilee." Rest assured that none of that is a coincidence. My answer is, therefore: "Yes, it is a success."

Patrick Wajsman: From the viewpoint of eliminating terrorism, I agree with you. But what about the rest? The Syrians once again hold the key, and Ronald Reagan even congratulated Hafiz al-Asad on accepting the cease-fire....

Ariel Sharon: In my view Ronald Reagan was wrong. For the Syrians agreed to calm things down temporarily only because the Americans and the French, by responding, showed some strength (not enough in my view). But Mr al-Asad's so-called "good will" has absolutely nothing to do with this affair. It is a fine joke!

In fact, do not forget that the Syrians' regional objective has never changed in the least: What Damascus eventually wants is to build a "great Syria" of which Lebanon would be one province. It is as simple as that.

Patrick Wajsman: The USSR is obviously behind the Syrians. How do you analyze the objectives which the Soviets are trying to attain through the Lebanese crisis?

Ariel Sharon: It will not surprise you if I say that, for the Kremlin, Lebanon is merely a "pawn" in a much bigger game. If you reread Soviet political literature, you will find many admissions of this type: "Our ambition," Brezhnev said in 1977, "is to gain control of the two pillars on which the Western camp is leaning (and on which it depends): the energy resources of the Persian Gulf and the mineral resources of central and southern Africa." Is it possible to be more frank?

The Russians have realized that, thanks to our "Peace in Galilee" operation, the free world succeeded for the first time in years in providing itself with strategic support in Lebanon. And that is why they wanted to question that advantage, by destabilizing the country using the Syrians and Palestinians.

Patrick Wajsman: To conclude, I would like to ask you three specific questions. The first is this: What are the maximum concessions which you are prepared to make?

Ariel Sharon: All solutions remain open aside from one: We will never accept the creation of a new Palestinian state. Indeed, there already is such a state: It is Jordan, more than 60 percent of whose population is of Palestinian origin. We cannot afford the luxury of accepting a second! A new Palestinian state would not only threaten our security, but would become a springboard for Soviet expansionism in the region. That is an argument to which I think the free world could not remain indifferent.

Patrick Wajsman: Supposing the PLO agreed to recognize Israel's existence: Would you agree to negotiate with it?

Ariel Sharon: We are not struggling against the Palestinian Arabs. We have always lived in harmony with them. But we will never agree to negotiate, bargain, court, or hold discussions withaden of terrorists like the PLO, whose declared objective is to destroy us. We want to live: Is that a great crime?

Patrick Wajsman: What do you think of France's decision to supply Super-Etendard aircraft to Iraq?

Ariel Sharon: I think that it is a mistake. As you can imagine, I am obviously not a disciple of Khomeyni. But Khomeyni will not live forever! The real danger to the Gulf emirates, however, is Iraq — and this is not new. We saw that clearly when the Iraqi regime tried to destabilize Kuwait a few years ago.

I must add that the Baghdad regime is under Soviet influence. Must the leaders of the free world once again arm those who want their downfall?

Egypt Bans Boats From Sailing Near Coral Isles

TA301446 Tel Aviv Ha'aretz in Hebrew 30 Sep 83 p 5

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian authorities will not permit Israeli yachts or boats to sail around the Coral Isles if Israeli sailors continue to infiltrate Egypt's territorial waters. This has been learned by the *Ha'aretz* correspondent.

This decision follows the many incidents in which Israeli citizens have approached to within 100 meters of the coast around the Coral Isles, thus forcing the Egyptian police in An-Nuwaybi' to arrest them.

Histadrut Secretary Meets Egyptian Minister

TA041916 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Our correspondent in Washington Razi Barqay reports that Histadrut Secretary Yeruham Meshel today met the Egyptian labor minister [title as heard]. The Egyptian minister said during the talk that political relations between Israel and Egypt are fragile and therefore, despite a showing of goodwill, tighter relations cannot be developed now between the two countries' labor unions.

Opinions Vary on Egypt's Adherence to Peace Pact

TA050615 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] Yesterday the defense minister visited the Southern Command. Minister Arens received briefings on the command's deployment and operational plans and toured the front lines. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that there are differences of opinion as to whether Egypt is violating the peace agreement. It is true that the Egyptians are maintaining fewer soldiers than they are permitted under the peace agreement, but their infrastructure is organized for very large forces.

Planned Tourism Meeting With Egypt Canceled

TA050713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] A meeting between the tourism ministers of Israel and Egypt has been canceled because Minister Sharir has canceled his trip to the International Tourism Organization conference. The conference is to open in New Delhi next week, and the two ministers had been scheduled to meet during the discussions. Avraham Sharir has canceled his participation in the conference because there is a possibility that the government may be brought to the Knesset for approval next week.

Shamir Delays Cabinet Presentation Until 10 Oct

TA041613 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The meeting between the Likud leaders and Agudat Yisra'el representatives held at the foreign minister's office has ended, and they said later that they would support Yitzhaq Shamir's government. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the Agudat Yisra'el members have said they are confident Mr Shamir will implement the coalition agreement and added that he would furthermore furnish them with a written commitment. The debate on this matter lasted 8 hours.

It was reported this afternoon that the National Religious Party, too, supports the proposal to postpone the presentation of the Cabinet to the Knesset until early next week. The six Knesset members who are demanding a broadly-based Cabinet will meet tomorrow at the office of Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor, who will report to them on the meetings he held with Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres.

Right now it looks as though MK's Berman, Tikhon, and Zeigerman will no longer withhold their support for the Cabinet when it comes to a vote next week. Thus it appears that the Knesset will convene to approve the new Cabinet on Monday morning.

Labor Against Government Continuation

TA041242 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The Labor Party has said that in the situation as it has developed, a continuation government will be a certain prescription for a continuation of the chaos in the country. The party's reactions team points out that an embarrassed panicky government is incapable of leading the Israeli people, which sees their savings disappearing into the air and does not know what the new day will bring.

Unity Government Advocates Disband

TA050916 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0850 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] The group of six coalition Knesset members has disbanded. At the end of a 1 and a 1/2 hour meeting, the members of this

group came to the conclusion that the attempts to establish a national unity government had been exhausted and from now on each of the six will work independently as he sees fit. It is not yet clear how the six will vote when the government is presented to the Knesset next week. Dan Tikhon told our correspondent Sha'ul Stav that he would vote in favor; Dro Zeigerman said he had not yet decided, and Minister Ben-Porat refused to say how he would vote.

Shamir Hopeful

TA050605 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir hopes to present his government to the Knesset on Monday, 10 October. He told our correspondent that, for the time being, he cannot enumerate the number of Knesset members who will support the government. According to Minister Shamir, the negotiations with Agudat Yisra'el were concluded positively and now the Likud leaders are negotiating with the other factions that will be coalition partners. He stressed there was no dispute among the parties, but there are still several issues that should be settled. At a rally of Likud supporters in Jerusalem, the foreign minister emphasized that the new government would fulfill Menahem Begin's policy. On a national unity government, he said that even today the Likud had not shut the gates.

Public Prefers Rabin as Labor Party Leader

TA041127 Tel Aviv Ha'aretz in Hebrew 4 Oct 83 p 3

[Report on PORI Poll]

[Text] Yitzhaq Navon is the Alignment voters' preferred candidate for the leadership of the Labor Party, but the general public prefers Yitzhaq Rabin. This emerges from a nationwide PORI poll conducted for *Ha'aretz*.

In response to the question, "Who, in your opinion, should lead the Labor Party?" the Alignment voters' first choice was Navon (38.7 percent); the second choice was Rabin (31.1 percent), and the third choice was Shim'on Peres (18.9 percent).

The first choice of the general public was Yitzhaq Rabin (35.3 percent); the second choice was Yitzhaq Navon (26.2 percent), and the third choice was Peres (10.2 percent).

No other personalities received 1 percent or more of the public's support. However,, the following personalities received less than 1 percent: Abba Eban, Yosef Sarid, Hayim Bar-Lev, Arye Eli'av, Shulamit Aloni, and Simha Dinitz.

Nine percent of the Alignment voters and 24.8 percent of the general public refrained from specifying anyone as their preferred candidate for leadership of the Labor Party.

The poll, conducted in mid-September, encompassed a representative sample of 1,200 men and women who were personally interviewed nationwide.

More African Countries Said Ready To Renew Ties

TA021025 Tel Aviv Ma'ariv in Hebrew 2 Oct 83 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir and Apris correspondent Tamar Golan]

[Excerpt] A number of African countries might soon announce renewal of diplomatic ties with Israel, following political contacts between African leaders and Israeli officials. Avi Primor, the Africa director in the Foreign Ministry, met recently with some leaders of the black continent during a tour of African countries that announced their readiness to reconsider renewing relations with Israel in a joint move.

Primor's mission was intended mainly to coordinate this move in case the leaders of the these countries decide on it soon. Primor met with, among others, the president of Togo, one of the countries mentioned as a candidate for renewing ties with Israel.

Jerusalem is waiting for an announcement by Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on renewing his country's ties with Israel. This announcement will pave the way for announcements by other African leaders on renewing ties with Israel.

Twenty leaders of revolutionary African countries will dine tonight with French President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace in preparation for the official opening of the summit meeting tomorrow in the town of Vittel.

Delegations from 35 African countries are expected. The delegations include not only former French colonies but also former British and Portuguese colonies. It will be the highest ranking, most representative African meeting held in Europe.

Israel decided not to miss the opportunity and a Foreign Ministry delegation arrived in France to hold discreet contacts with the leaders taking part in the summit meeting, or with any African representative that is ready to meet with the Israeli delegates. Foreign Ministry Africa Director Avi Primor is heading the delegation. It is not known if the delegation includes members of the Defense Ministry as well.

The presidents of Zaire and Liberia agreed with the Israeli delegation to work among their African colleagues and help arrange meetings with them.

Diplomatic sources in the French capital said that the Israelis expect meetings with representatives from Togo, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Zambia, and the Central African Republic.

Overtures to Africans Denied

TA041909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Israel's new Ambassador to France 'Ovadya Sofer today arrived in France. On Friday he will present his credentials to President Mitterrand.

Meanwhile, Israel's Embassy in France denied that a special delegation from Israel tried to attend the French-African summit in the town of Vittel. Yesterday it was reported that the delegation, headed by the Foreign Ministry's Africa director, Avi Primor, asked to hold contacts with African leaders in order to convince them to renew their ties with Israel. Israel's Embassy spokesman said there was no such delegation; there were no attempts to hold contacts with the participants in the Vittel meeting, and Avi Primor, although he stayed in Paris, was en route to London.

New Improved Version of Merkava Tank Unveiled

TA041849 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] A new Israeli-made tank was unveiled today. It is the Mark-II Merkava, which has been developed from the Merkava now in use in the Israeli Army. The new tank is between 30 and 50 percent better in maneuverability, performance, and accuracy of itsfirepower. The tank carries a sophisticated fire and control system, which is also manufactured in Israel.

Devaluation Policy Unchanged Despite Concern

TA050611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] The government will not change the devaluation policy and will continue to devalue the shekel linked to the rise in the cost-of-living index. This was decided last night by the ministerial committee for economic affairs. The committee also decided that the government's decision to cut $1 billion from the state budget should continue to be implemented.

The ministers responsible for economic affairs were summoned to the finance minister's office last night, a very short time before the meeting, and were not told what the topic of the discussion would be. Several of the ministers told our correspondent that until the government is established, no real decisions could be made in the economic field, and so the meeting had been intended to provide the finance minister with support, after he had been severely attacked recently for his economic policy.

However, a senior Treasury source told our correspondent Gadi Sukenik that the step taken by Minister Aridor last night also originated from concern for the state of the economy. Yesterday, concern increased, after the public continued to buy dollars, the slump in the stock exchange continued, and a large amount of bank shares was sold.

ALGERIA

Tanzanian President Arrives, Makes Statement

LD041638 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Algiers, 4-10-83 (APS) — President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania arrived here in the evening for a work and friendship visit. President Chadli Bendjedid and [as received] member of the Politburo, government and F.L.N. Party greeted the presidential delegation who includes also Foreign Minister Salim Ahmed Salim. In a brief statement to the press President Nyerere said there were many hot points in Australe Africa, Chad, Western Sahara and in the Horn of Africa. He said also there was no immediate solution to this problem indicating that the only way in long term will be to carry on the struggle. My message to the Algerian people and to all peoples of Africa President Nyerere said: "Let us continue the struggle and the support for those who fight for their legitimate rights." [sentence as received]

Nyerere Meets With Bendjedid

LD042338 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Algerian-Tanzanian political talks started this morning with a private meeting between Presidents Julius Nyerere and Chadli Bendjedid. The meeting was then extended to include the members of the two delegations.

Delegation Begins Meetings With USSR's Chernenko

LD042339 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee and his accompanying delegation, who have been in Moscow since yesterday, started meetings today with a delegation of the CPSU led by Mr Chernenko, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee. Mr Messaadia is bearing a message from President Bendjedid to General Secretary Andropov.

Protocol Signed With CSSR TU Delegation

LD041640 Prague CTK in English 1233 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] Algiers 4 Oct (CTK) — Member of the Front of National Liberation Central Committee and co-chairman of the Czechoslovak-Algerian Mixed Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation Muhammad Kurtabi received here Monday a visiting delegation of the Czechoslovak Central Council of Trade Unions, led by member of the Communist Party Central Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions Vaclav Bezel. Member of the Front of National Liberation and General Secretary of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA) Tajib Binlakhdar also attended the discussion. Vaclav Bezel and Tajib Binlakhdar signed a protocol on cooperation between the Czechoslovak Central Committee Council of Trade Unions and UGTA for 1984-85.

Representatives of trade unions of the two capitals, chairman of the Prague Trade Union Council Jiri Bilek, and his Algiers counterpart Muhammad Gurara signed a protocol on cooperation between trade union organizations of the two capitals for the years 1984-85.

LIBYA

JANA Lists Arrested Numayri Opponents

LD041847 Tripoli JANA in English 1412 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Spelling of all names as received]

[Text] Khartoum, Dhulhijah 27, Oct 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The authorities of hireling Numayri have ordered the arrestof the Politburo members of Al Ansar party, whose leader is the well known member of the opposition, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The following list is the names of those [words indistinct] members who got arrested.

1. Khalid Muhammad Ibrahim

2. 'Umar Nur al-Dayim

3. Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Mahdi

4. Nasr al-Din (Wbbahdi)

5. 'Abd al-Rahman (Nruo)

6. Al-Maghrerni Dayfallah

7. 'Awad Salih

8. 'Abd al-Latif Talih

9. Fadle Nur

10. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad

11. Abu-Bakr Ahmad 'Ali, in addition to hundreds of ordinary members from different parts of the country.

MAURITANIA

Four Former Officials, Journalist Jailed

AB050930 Paris AFP in English 0732 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] Nouakchott, Oct 5 (AFP) — Four onetime senior Mauritanian Government officials and a journalist were among an undisclosed number of people jailed for subversion by a special court here Tuesday. All were accused of belonging to the pro-Iraqi Ba'th Party and were arrested in March last year. The heaviest sentences — 12 years hard labor — went to former Cabinet Minister Mohamed Yehdih Ould Breibelleil, former Director of Higher Education Memed Ould Ahmed, and jour-

nalist Tourad Ould Sidi. Eight others, including former Director of Information Khalil Ould Enahoui and former Presidential Press Attache Mohamed Ould Hamadi, were condemned to 10 years hard labor. The court gave a number of other defendants suspended sentences of five years hard labor and acquitted three people.

TUNISIA

Official Holds Talks With USSR's Ilichev

PM041120 Tunis L'Action in French 23 Sep 83 p 7

[TAP report: "Tunisian-Soviet Talks in Moscow"]

[Text] Moscow — Mr Mahmoud Mestiri, secretary of state for foreign affairs, who is at present on a working visit to the Soviet Union, had a working session in Moscow on Wednesday [21 September] with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev and Mr Shvedov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry African Department. The working session, which lasted more than 2 hours, was devoted to international problems and the aggravation of international tension. The situation in the Near East and other important questions on the present agenda of the UN General Assembly session were also mentioned. During that working session, held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding characterized by frankness and great cordiality, the Soviet deputy minister paid tribute to President Bourguiba whose wisdom, lucid approach, and great experience he stressed.

At the end of this session, attended in particular by senior officials from the Soviet Foreign Ministry and also by Tunisian Ambassador to the USSR Mohamed Gherab, Mr Ilichev gave a lunch in Mr Mestiri's honor. The secretary of state for foreign affairs also discussed Tunisian-Soviet relations with Mr Shvedov.

Further Report on Talks

PM041119 Tunis L'Action in French 25 Sep 83 p 7

[TAP report: "Mr Mahmoud Mestiri in Moscow"]

[Text] Moscow — In the framework of the working visit he is making to the Soviet Union, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Mestiri had two working sessions with Mr Shvedov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry African Department, devoted to examining bilateral relations and different aspects of Tunisian-Soviet cooperation. They also provided an opportunity to exchange views on the main current international questions. At the bilateral level the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive development of Tunisian-Soviet cooperation in the different spheres and reaffirmed their joint desire to continue working for its consolidation. In this connection they expressed their readiness to explore new possibilities as well as ways and means appropriate to the good prospects in this sphere. They also revealed that the exchanges of visits at high level, either scheduled or forthcoming, will be bound to further strengthen Tunisian-Soviet cooperation.

On the political level the two sides made an examination of important international policy questions, particularly the Middle East, the situation in Africa, especially Namibia, disarmament, and other important points on the current UN General Assembly agenda, such as the new international information order. The two sides expressed their readiness to pursue cooperation on questions of common interest. Tunisian Ambassador in Moscow Mohamed Gherab, for his part, gave a lunch at the embassy which was attended by several Soviet foreign affairs officials, notably Mr Fokin, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; Mr Kolokolov, RSFSR deputy foreign minister and former ambassador in Tunis; and Mr Shvedov. On his departure from the Soviet capital, Mr Mahmoud Mestiri was seen off by several officials from the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

ETHIOPIA

Eritrean Official Quoted on Ethiopian Losses

GF021336 Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 2 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Doha, 2 Oct (QNA) — In a battle that took place between Eritrean revolutionaries and Ethiopian forces near the city of Tessene in the western province, 70 Ethiopian soldiers were killed and 17 others were taken prisoners.

Mohamed Osman abu Bakr, representative for the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces in the Gulf region, has affirmed that the Ethiopian Army failed for the seventh time to enter the liberated Eritrean country which is controlled by the Eritrean revolutionaries despite its use of the most advanced weapons and the assistance of Soviet and Cuban military advisers.

In a statement to QNA, Abu Bakr expressed the Eritrean revolution's readiness to enter into negotiations with Ethiopian without preconditions to reach a just and peaceful settlement and achieve stability in the Horn of Africa after a struggle of more than 20 years.

TANZANIA

Prime Minister Asks Increased Food Production

EA010921 Dar Es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1900 GMT 30 Sep 83

[Text] Dar Es Salaam: Government officials and agricultural experts have been called upon to cooperate fully with the people in promoting modern agriculture in order to provide the nation with sufficient food. The call was made this evening by Prime Minister Ndugu Edward Sokoine when closing a 2-day session of Parliament at Karimjee Hall in Dar Es Salaam. Ndugu Sokoine said the time has come for Tanzanians to exert themselves in modern agriculture to obtain sufficient food. He said only the Tanzanians themselves can save the country from becoming a desert of food shortages, adding that it is shameful for the country to persist in begging for things which the people themselves can produce in sufficient quantities.

The prime minister called on the regions to increase production to produce surpluses. He congratulated the regions of Rukwa, Ruvuma, Iringa for producing corn surpluses. He also congratulated the Mwanza region for producing a surplus of cotton.

Referring to implementation of the Human Resources Development Act, which will come into force 15 October, Ndugu Sokoine said enforcement of the act will be applied in such a manner as to ensure that every able-bodied person will work. He said the aim of the act is to effect higher production to enable the nation to earn the increased foreign exchange it needs.

Parliament has been prorogued until 24 January, when it will meet in Dodoma.

UGANDA

Government Issues Statement on Shooting of MP

AB031500 Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT 3 Oct 83

[Text] Kampala, Oct 3 (AFP) — The Uganda Government today issued a statement expressing 'deep sorrow' over the shooting last night of opposition Democratic Party Member of Parliament Africanus Sembatya.

Mr Sembatya, aged 45, was shot dead by a group of gunmen who broke into his home in a fashionable residential suburb here. He was shot in the chest and in the head, Democratic Party officials said at the party headquarters in Kampala today.

The gunmen then took 15000 shillings (approximately 50 dollars) and a radio cassette from Mrs. Sembatya and fled, the opposition party officials said.

Mr Sembatya, the shadow minister for commerce and elected MP for Masaka south constituency in southern Uganda, is the third MP to be killed by gunmen since the general elections of December 1980.

Joseph Muhangi was shot in 1981 as he was driving along the Southern Masaka highway, and George Bamuturaki, a Kampala lawyer, was gunned down outside a Kampala bar in February last year.

No arrests are understood to have been made in connection with either incident.

Mr. Sembatya, a well known businessman in Kampala, was permanent secretary in the Ministry of Commerce between 1975 and 1978. He had been a director of the Foundation for African Development (FAD), an organisation which has close links with the Democratic Party.

In another development, the vernacular daily *Munno* reported that 500 prisoners had been released from detention near Kampala since Friday. The newspaper said the prisoners released from Marchison Bay prison at Luzira, just outside Kampala, had been among those arrested last year during search operations for anti-government dissidents following a rebel attack on a military barracks here in February last year. Government officials did not confirm the report.

Obote Orders 2,100 Prisoners Released

EA041255 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] President Milton Obote has ordered the release of 2,100 prisoners and detainees to mark the 21st anniversary of independence, which will fall on Sunday, 9 October 1983. The prisoners released are mainly first offenders and those who were serving sentences of less than 3 years. A sizeable number of former soldiers of the military regime have also been released, as well as persons who have been detained on account of banditry activities.

CHAD

Bardai Denounces Habre Presence at Vittel Summit

AB041000 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 3 Oct 83

[Summary] The French-African summit opened today in Vittel, France. As in the Zairian capital last year, the mistaken political will of socialist France has enabled the gang leader Hissein Habre to take part in the summit meeting. The presence at this meeting of the murderer of Major Galopin constitutes a political scandal.

"Thanks to the extension and intensification of the armed struggle, the revolutionary forces have disabled the horde of puppets and liberated half of the country." "Therefore, it is a false representative who is now attending the meeting in the place of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] which is the true custodian of national legality. This being the case, what can one expect from this summit organized by France? As far as the comrade president of the GUNT is concerned, France wants to demonstrate its substantial support for Hissein Habre instead of applying pressure on its protege." The French Government, which has been proclaiming the need for a political solution to the Chadian tragedy, must be rational and demonstrate its goodwill.

Bardai Hails Sankara Elysee Banquet Boycott

AB040940 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 3 Oct 83

[Text] We have learned from the latest reports that Captain Thomas Sankara of Upper Volta has refused to take part in the banquet given at the Elysee Palace by President Francois Mitterrand. The Upper Voltan head of state has thus demonstrated that he is aware of the crude maneuver of the French protocol service aimed at making him sit beside the singularly evil Habre and compromise him. We hail the gesture of this great and worthy son of our continent. As everyone can see, this was a concrete proof of attempts on the part of the organizers to manipulate the participants in this summit meeting.

Meanwhile, patriotic Chadian circles in France, the wife of the late Galopin and Mr and Mrs Claustre are displeased with the arrival in France of the torturer of the Chadian people who — to quote *Le Figaro* newspaper — assassinated a negotiator.

ZAIRE

Kinshasa Reports Mobutu Activities in France

AB042030 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The founding-chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, began his second day in Vittel with intensive diplomatic activities with his counterparts attending the conference of heads of state of Africa and France. Thus he received his counterparts from Rwanda and Burundi to review cooperation within the Economic Community of Countries of the Great Lake whose next summit will be held in Bujumbura.

Presidents Siad Barre of Somalia and Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea took turns in calling on the Zairian head of state. They discussed bilateral and issues of interest to the African Continent. The same topics were discussed at the audience he granted to Mr Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs. He held similar discussions with the Central African foreign minister. [Passage indistinct] a plan for a national reconciliation. President Hissein Habre is not opposed to such a plan, but he contends that Libya, which has violated the territorial integrity of his country, should also be present at the negotiations.

According to our correspondent at the summit of heads of state of France and Africa at Vittel, President Francois Mitterrand gave a press conference this evening at which he took stock of the deliberations of the conference. I must say that the second and last day of the conference of heads of state of France and Africa was dominated mainly by the Chadian problem. President Francois Mitterrand held talks with President Hissein Habre, who called on participants to help him find a solution to the Chadian problem. Guinean President Sekou Toure, on his part, announced that President Hissein Habre was ready to negotiate.

NIGERIA

Shagari Receives Diplomats, Discusses Relations

AB041600 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] President Shehu Shagari says his new administration will be dedicated to strengthening the cordial relations between Nigeria and the various countries and organizations that maintain diplomatic relations with her. These relations will be in the economic, cultural, and political fields as well as bilateral and multilateral levels. The president gave the pledge in Lagos today at an audience he had with heads of diplomatic missions in Nigeria at State House, Marina.

He noted that a good deal of work had been done in this direction by his administration in the last 4 years and said that the next 4 years would afford his new administration the opportunity to consolidate what had been achieved as well as branch out into new ventures. President Shagari stated that the cardinal principles of Nigeria's foreign policy would continue to guide his administration. He said that Nigeria would work with the international community in the continuing search for world peace as well as in finding solutions to outstanding political and economic problems in the world. The president remarked that he was deeply touched by the messages of goodwill which the envoys had relayed from their respective heads of state and governments. He declared that it was gratifying to know that as he embarked on his second term as president of Nigeria he could count on the good wishes and cooperation of so many heads of state from all over the world.

Earlier, the dean of the diplomatic corps and Ambassador of Cameroon Alhaji Mohaman Lamine said that the diplomats were satisfied with the close relations which existed between their countries and Nigeria in several fields of common interest. He was convinced that President Shagari's second term in office would not only guarantee the continuity of these relations but would provide more prospects for their consolidation.

UPPER VOLTA

Speeches Delivered at CDR Demonstration 3 Oct

AB041910 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Excerpts] The militants of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] in our country yesterday demonstrated — through their conscious and determined action — their desire to block the way for reaction, lies, and subversion. The support demonstrations, marches, and public rallies which took place yesterday throughout the country are an eloquent testimony. In Ouagadougou, CDR militants of various districts gathered for this purpose as early as 1530 at the Revolution Square, formerly known as the 3 January Square. Despite the heavy downpour, these militants trekked 10 kms before assembling finally at the Independence Square for the public rally. It was a rally organized by the CDRs to demonstrate their unflinching support for the 4 August revolution. We shall make you listen to two speeches of the four which were given. They are those of the comrade national secretary general of the CDRs and the Comrade Captain Blaise Compaore. Listen to Lieutenant Pierre Ouedraogo, who on behalf of the CDRs explains the reason for this support march.

[Begin Ouedraogo recording] However, our demonstration today has an unprecedented historical importance because we have come out to say yes to the orientation speech, to say yes to the revolution and to say yes to our great leader, Comrade President Thomas Sankara. [shouts] We have come out to say no to 25 years of obscurantism, to 25 years of exploitation of man by man, and finally, to say no to the rule of a minority of incompetent people who betrayed us by imposing international imperialism on us. It is necessary that these local puppets of imperialism understand that a new page of history was finally turned yesterday with the orientation speech and that, henceforth, the steamrollers of the revolution will not hesitate to crush on their way the lizards and the chameleons [shouts] who will try to slow down the march of the revolution.

Comrades, keep quiet. While we are talking about enemies, reaction [words indistinct] has published an out-of-context and irrational document signed by the puppet and reactionary and antirevolutionary leadership of the National Trade Union of Upper Voltan African Teachers [SNEAHV]. This leadership is composed of a group of lizards in the pay of international imperialism. I would not have bothered to mention this if it were not for the prominence given to this rag paper of counter truth by media in the pay of international imperialism, because all staunch supporters of the revolution were able to give to this rag paper the kind of attention it deserves. They gave it a scornful silence. The interest which imperialist media gave to this rag paper demonstrates the close cooperation between the group of lizards and the sworn enemies of the Upper Voltan people. The lizards of the reactionary and antirevolutionary leadership issued this rag paper in order to deceive the people, but the Upper Voltan people are more intelligent and will not allow themselves to be abused by anyone. The puppets of that reactionary and antirevolutionary leadership are being terrorized by the people who have now awakened. They have betrayed these people by (?helping) the reactionaries of the Army muzzle and oppress workers under the rule of the Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress [CMRPN].

These lizards believe that the people have forgotten all these things. Have you forgotten the suspension of the right to go on strike? [shouts of "No"] have you forgotten the deportations? [shouts of "No"] Have you forgotten the dismissals and suspensions of workers? [shouts of "No"] Where then are the lizards? Comrades, as you have not forgotten, you know that this clique of antirevolutionary elements is constantly fighting. Will you fight them too? [shouts of "Yes"]. Will you fight them? [shouts of "Yes"] Will you fight them? [Shouts of "Yes"]. Thank you comrades.

These antirevolutionaries must know that in Upper Volta, there are seven million (?citizens) who are prepared to assume their responsibilities. If among them there are people who should be revolutionarily dismissed, they will be dismissed. The quality of the education of the revolutionary youth cannot be negotiated

with anyone, much less with hopeless antirevolutionaries. There are hundreds of staunch revolutionaries who can replace them. We believe that positions in teaching should go to those worthy people, some of whom are now unemployed because the positions which should have rightly gone to them were grabbed by some sordid and puppet elements thanks to their use of tricks and kalabule [profiteering]. [shouts]. [end recording]

Now, let us listen to the statement made by Comrade Blaise Compaore, minister delegate to the presidency:

[Begin recording] Comrades, fighters of the revolution, through my voice, the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], our great comrade in struggle Captain Thomas Sankara [shouts], and the Revolutionary Government of Upper Volta are thanking you. Thank you for your support to the CNR orientation speech. Thank you for the expression of your political foresight and your clear, objective, and important analysis of the contents of this speech. Your support is justified because this orientation, as you have noticed, is fundamentally different from all plans to strengthen imperialist servitude and neocolonial slavery which have so far been suggested to you.

This is so because the CNR does not have its own objective. The CNR is based on the support of the people. Its objectives correspond to the legitimate aspirations of the popular masses of Upper Volta who have been exploited and oppressed. This makes the orientation policy a weapon in the hands of the people in the face of their deadly enemies. The program of combat must constitute a work [as heard] that must [laughter], I mean that this program must be the work of the entire people for the benefit of the entire people. This is what Comrade Sankara said. This orientation must be for the vast majority, in the interest of the vast majority. We are expecting from you your total support for its implementation and for the struggle in the anti-imperialist path we have chosen, an anti-imperialist path which for us is an historic necessity when we have known 23 years of misery, oppression, and exploitation, 23 years through which imperialism denied our people their right to freedom and to dignity.

Today, I also must thank you because this mobilization is to denounce the underground and sometimes open activities of the antirevolutionaries . [sentence as heard] Thank you, however, I appeal to you for greater vigilance because it is certain that imperialism has not laid down its arms. Imperialism is afraid of the (?masses). But be reassured that, more then ever before, it is determined to fight you; it is determined to stop the process launched since 4 August. We have evidence of this, and I can right now give you examples of some of the activities of imperialism in Upper Volta, in complicity with its local puppets. On the external plane, for example, there are some rotten African statesmen who should be dismissed [shouts], and who have begun to contribute money to the reactionary African alliance, saying that the only way to solve the Upper Voltan problem is to send mercenaries to that territory. [shouts] Do you believe that mercenaries can stop this process? [shouts of "No"] Therefore, we are waiting for them. [shouts of "Yes"] Thank you. This is not surprising because we have right in this country some groups, or rather some chanceries, which patiently but surely are organizing a direct confrontation with the Upper Voltan revolution. They brought into the country spying equipment. They engaged some renegades and betrayors of the fatherland. But we shall fight them as you have said. [shouts] Thank you, comrades.

Also in this town, political meetings are being held by out-and-out elements of national reaction. They hold their meetings to discuss issues that center on the search for a reactionary group in the Army in the hopes of organizing a fascist military coup. Do you believe this is possible? [shouts of "No"] As I told you, the CNR is the affair of the entire nation. When I talk of the entire nation, I refer to those exploited and oppressed classes. It is true that we have appealed to all Upper Voltans, but this appeal is within the framework of the new social order which we intend to establish, not the former order, which is one of a decaying political and economic system. This is why we need greater vigilance in the CDRs, in the districts and in the work places. We must be vigilant because between the people and their enemies, the only relationship is the struggle, and you must understand this; it must be a fight to the death, like the comrade over there is saying. Thank you comrade. [shouts] The fatherland or death! Thank you, comrades. We shall overcome. Thank you, comrades.

This afternoon, what I want to request you to do is to demonstrate your support to our Comrade Thomas Sankara, [shouts] who is now 4000 kms from here. Do you know the story? [shouts] He was welcomed yesterday on his arrival in Paris by Guy Penne. You know who he is? [shouts] He was welcomed by Guy Penne just as if it was [word indistinct] with a Maggi cube. [as heard] Do you understand? [shouts] Thank you, comrades. He will not come to Ouagadougou. Thank you, comrades. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Sends Anniversary Message to Machel

MB041024 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text of message from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to Mozambique President Samora Machel — no date given]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade: On behalf of the Angolan people, the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, and on my own behalf, I warmly congratulate you, and request you to pass my cordial greetings to the Frelimo Party Central Committee, the people of Mozambique, and the government of your people's republic on the 19th anniversary of the launching of the armed struggle for the national liberation.

While celebrating this historical date of the launching of the victorious armed struggle, led by Frelimo under your able leadership, we express our joy for the achievement attained through profound socio-economic tranformations following national independence in the defense of Mozambican workers and peasants, who for centuries were submitted to the most (?brutal) exploitation as they resisted the Portuguese colonial and fascist yoke.

The aggravation of the international situation, which is reaching alarming proportions and affecting Southern Africa in particular because of the increasing belligerence by imperialism and South Africa, (?did not stop) this day from being celebrated in an atmosphere of complete peace and tranquillity.

Our common enemies do not give up. Intervening directly or using armed gangs of puppets and traitors, they continue to destroy the revolutionary gains of our peopls and to destabilize our countries through sabotage, terrorism, and undeclared war of aggression.

The struggle launched on 25 September and 4 February for total independence continues even under difficult conditions to neutralize the attempts at neocolonization, and there is no doubt that our people shall emerge victorious.

We would like to take the opportunity to reiterate our militant solidarity, and I wish you, esteemed comrade president, the best of health and continued successes in the struggle waged by our brothers in Mozambique in the defense of their achievements, peace, and the building of socialism.

Highest and fraternal consideration.

Signed: Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola.

LESOTHO

Prime Minister Jonathan's Anniversary Address

MB041457 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Dr Leabua Jonathan — recorded; date and place not given]

[Text] My countrymen: Once again I am pleased to take this opportunity to make this short message of greetings and good wishes on the occasion of our 17th independence anniversary. The past year since the last anniversary has been an unusual one in the history of our independence. It has characterized itself as a year in which our national unity has been put to the test, a year in which our sovereignty has been challenged as never before since the days of the father and founder of our nation, King Moshoeshoe I.

The memory of last December's invasion of our capital by foreign forces and the resultant loss of innocent lives is still vivid in our minds. I am happy to say in this regard that the National Assembly in its last sitting designated 9 December as a national holiday and a mourning day in memory of the lives which were lost on that date. Moreover, as I had promised, the government is considering to erect a monument in honor of these victims as soon as finances permit.

The invasion was a distinctive event not simply because of its brutality and the fact that it was the first direct foreign military attack against Lesotho in modern times, but also because it marked the beginning of a series of concerted foreign invasions which have continued even lately. It was soon after the Maseru massacre that our security forces encountered invading forces from South Africa in various places, including the Pitseng Roman Catholic mission, Ongeluk's Nek, Qhacha's Nek, Kolonyamo, and (Mogwaba) in Mokhotlong a month back. As has already been disclosed before, it is clear from the confessions of captured members of these invading forces that the armed incursions into our country are part of a plot to overthrow the present government and to replace it with (?accessories) and lackeys of foreign powers.

These acts of military aggression against Lesotho have been backed by the economic harrassment of our country, including a go-slow at South African border entry points, which has virtually brought traffic to a standstill. At the same time the movement into Lesotho of essential commodities, such as medical drugs and military equipment, have been affected by a South African embargo, and some of the military equipment has actually been seized at South African ports.

But we ask why South Africa has to resort to these drastic measures against a small, economically and militarily weak

country like Lesotho. According to what they say, which is confirmed by their captured bandits in our hands, we are being harrassed because we are keeping ANC refugees, whom they also allege we are giving military bases. We have consistently denied these charges, pointing out that there are no ANC bases here and that refugees abide by the conditions for their asylum, which include non-aggression on other countries. But South Africa is continuing with its unfair pressures, even after some ANC refugees have voluntarily left Lesotho in fear of a repetition of last December's massacre.

South Africa's reasons for harrassment get even more complicated, for we know, on the other hand, that they dislike the fact that we do not see eye-to-eye with them on the apartheid philosophy. To South Africa, everybody who is opposed to apartheid is a communist who must be destroyed. At the same time we also know that South Africa is not happy with Lesotho's independent foreign policy, by which we have sought to diversify our diplomatic relations. They are especially unhappy about my recent visit to the Eastern Bloc countries, which led to the establishment of relations with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, and others. But here, too, we are puzzled because the establishment of diplomatic relations is a sovereign prerogative of each individual country.

We are therefore led to one conclusion: that South Africa wants Lesotho as another bantustan and the inception of a government which is a mere appendage of Pretoria. It is most encouraging that in all the difficulties through which we are passing the overwhelming majority of the people of Lesotho have not been confused but have shown singular unity and have rallied fully behind their government. Our Armed Forces in particular have shown exemplary loyalty in this difficult time and, working hand-in-hand with the public, have been able to repulse the foreign attacks on our country.

It is my duty on the occasion of our 17th independence anniversary to commend the unity and loyalty of you all and to urge you to move ahead undeterred with a common aim of safeguarding the independence of our country and working for its economic upliftment. Our current tribulation underscores our vulnerability and the need for us to attain a modicum of (?self)-sufficiency in order to be able to withstand undue pressures.

While we are grateful to the international community for all it has done for us in this regard, and while we shall continue to look up to its assistance, our own effort will be the determinant factor for our success. It is for this reason that I urge you all — farmers, the business community, and everybody in his day-to-day occupation — to prepare yourselves to make sacrifices calculated at helping this country on the road to self-sufficiency by redoubling efforts and trying as much as possible to utilize the resources of this country and giving them preference over foreign imports. This applies equally to the private sectors and government ministries, together with parastatals. We may not have abundant (?known) natural resources, but at least we have our soil and our water, and these will be crucial in the coming days to our efforts at self-sufficiency.

The development of our manpower, which is our primary resource, is also of cardinal importance. With skilled manpower we can be able to achieve what other countries like Japan, which like us is not richly endowed with natural resources, or even Switzerland, which like us has no resources and is landlocked, have been able to achieve through trained manpower. Man-made problems have not been the only cause of our difficulties. Nature has also inflicted its share of hardships. From last season we were hit by a severe drought, which up to now does not seem to be abating. Winter crops have already been hard hit, and, unless we have rain soon, prospects of recovery are very dim indeed. As is well known, we are always receiving food assistance from friendly countries and organizations. Also, in response to my appeal for food assistance following the initial spell of drought, this food is already being distributed among the hardest hit areas.

The worsening situation calls for additional effort, and we are preparing to make an approach to friends and sympathetic countries and organizations for more help. Whereas the initial spell of drought affected mostly the mountain areas, the present situation affects the whole country, and even water supplies have dwindled sharply.

But while we are awaiting international assistance, we must also cooperate among ourselves. In accordance with our customs and traditions, those who have something must remember [words indistinct] and give them the little they can afford to give them. This is one of our most important customary practices, which has in the past helped minimize economic disparities within the nation. It is a practice which should be friendly. It is also an instrument against abject poverty in our country. My countrymen, if the 17th year of our independence has been a year of hardships, it has also been a year of hope and achievements. It was during this year that we were able to diversify our friendship with other countries of the world by establishing contacts with the Eastern Bloc countries. In the context of our geopolitical situation, the relations with these countries are a bridge linking us with the outside world and breaking the unfortunate isolation in which we find ourselves.

I wish to express my appreciation for the overwhelming support which I have been given by the nation on this step, which I took in the national interest and in fulfilment of our declared policy of nonaligment. I am also pleased to say that since my last visit to the Far East and Eastern Europe during the first part of the year, the DPRK and the PRC have already opened resident embassies in Lesotho, and others are in the pipeline.

In the constitutional domain, this 17th year of independence has also distinguished itself through the significant advances which we have made in our determination to complete the normalization of the democratic process following the unfortunate upheaval of the past. The Parliament Act, which sets the constitutional framework of this country, is a great step forward paving the way for general elections. With its enactment in the last sitting of Parliament, what is now remaining before the setting of an election date are processess directly related to elections themselves, such as the holding of a population census and the overhauling of the electoral law, as well as the delimitation of constituencies.

Thus, while this year has been a year of difficulties, it has at the same time been a year of progress. Both of these are essential

ingredients of independence, and they have to be acknowledged as such. Let us, therefore, celebrate this 17th independence anniversary with thanksgiving, and as we forge ahead, sometimes through sorrow and at other times through sickness, let us also ask the Almighty to give us the strength and the courage to work relentlessly for the ideals and the vision which the great father and founder of this nation set for Lesotho.

In conclusion, I would like to inform you that your government is leaving no stone unturned in trying to normalize relations with South Africa. We are trying to speak to them first directly and through intermediaries, such as the UN secretary general and the UN commissioner for refugees. In addition we are appealing to countries like the United States, which is a friend of both South Africa and ourselves. We are especially trying to put across to the United States that their policy of constructive engagement with South Africa appears to be exacerbating our problem. We trust that the American ambassador in Lesotho, who sees things first hand from here, will also assist us in our efforts to normalize relations with South Africa. It is in the interests of both Lesotho and South Africa to normalize relations. We are also in contact with the British and others whom we see believe in dialogue as opposed to force and economic blockades as a means of inducing peace. We still have hope that in the end justice and common sense will prevail.

Kgotoso, pula, nala [peace, rain, abundance of food].

MADAGASCAR

Three Officers To Face Military Tribunal

MB041707 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The trial by a military tribunal will begin in Antananarivo tomorrow, 5 October, in a case against the commanding officer of the State Police Force, (Jean Maurishoun Richard); the captain of the State Police Force, (Rakotoua Belle); and the captain of the People's Army, (Rakotou Rinamarson). The tribual will try a case of attempting to endanger internal state security, as our colleague, (Ubere Rashamjanai), explains:

[Begin recording] The court about to sit is an ordinary military tribunal which sits yearly and which in particular tries members of the armed forces — that is the military forces and the State Police Force — who have committed crimes or breaches of the law as postulated in the justice code of the National Correctional Service.

We stress that the attorney general designates the assistant public prosecutors for the tribunal, and the trial does not take place in the presence of the accused, who must leave the courtroom during the deliberation. As opposed to proceedings in a civilian court, they return to the court clerk to learn about the verdict in the presence of a [words indistinct].

We also stress that no damage claims are entertained in a military tribunal. It is possible to lodge a [word indistinct] petition after the trial regarding our jurisdiction. It is also possible to lodge an appeal for the reversal of a sentence. Finally, we wish to explain the reasons why we have not up to now given the names of those who make up the military tribunal or the assistant public prosecutors. No final and complete information has yet been published on this. As can be imagined, that is certainly meant to protect the independence of judges against any forms of pressure which could always be put on them. [end recording]

MOZAMBIQUE

President Machel Meets EEC President Thorn

MB041950 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Report from Brussels by (Gulam Khan)]

[Text] In the second day of his visit President Samora Machel had a meeting with the president of the EEC, Gaston Thorn. On arrival at the EEC headquarters, he was received by the president of that organization and the commissioner, Mr Edgard Pisani. The meetings held by President Samora Machel were described by an official Mozambique source as having been cordial and positive. The prominent issues of the talks were the situation in Southern Africa and a review of the cooperation between the EEC and the People's Republic of Mozambique. Particular stress was laid on the future prospects for the relations between the EEC and Mozambique. Other issues were also discussed, including food aid that the EEC can give to our country and the financing of agricultural and fishing projects.

According to the same source, Mozambique's intention to participate fully in the negotiations for the new Lome Convention was reaffirmed at the meeting. Meanwhile, at the moment we are speaking, President Samora Machel is addressing representatives of African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries.Tonight a dinner party hosted by the EEC commissioner, Mr Edgard Pisani, will be held at one of the hotels of the Belgian capital of Brussels. This is the program of this second working day of the visit of President Samora Machel to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Soviet Friendship Delegation Ends Visit

MB050828 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The visit by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries to Mozambique ended today. Zinaida Kruglova, chairman of the union and member of the CPSU Central Committee, said in a press conference today that the visit was a success. She said that it enabled the delegation to analyze a wide variety of matters of common interest in the field of future cooperation and the policy of solidarity to be followed. Zinaida Kruglova said that a review was made of the cooperation between the Mozambique Association for Friendship and Solidarity With Peoples [AMASP] and the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries under the terms of the cooperation protocol signed in 1981.

At the press conference, Zinaida Kruglova said that her delegation had met with Joaquim Chissano, secretary of the Frelimo

Party for external relations, during which they discussed relations between Mozambique and the USSR and the present international situation. Other aspects discussed during the talks included the training of Mozambican cadres in the USSR, the exhibition of films in Mozambique about Soviet life, and the support to be granted to AMASP in the opening of provincial branches.

The delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries visited the Machava cashew nut factory, the Matola industrial school, the center for the training of commissars of Mozambique Railways-South, and the engineering college of Eduardo Mondlane University. According to Zinaida Kruglova, these meetings enabled the Soviet delegation to ascertain the social changes taking place in Mozambique.

New Ambassadors Appointed to Ethiopia, Zambia

MB021248 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 2 Oct 83

[Text] Mozambique has appointed its first ambassador to Ethiopia. He is Alberto Sithole, a veteran of Mozambique's independence struggle who was until recently governor of the province of Inhambane. A new ambassador has also been appointed to represent Mozambique in Zambia. He is Joao Julio Cuambe. The appointments come less than a month after the government announced ambassadorial changes affecting the Mozambique missions in Tanzania, Swaziland, Portugal, and the United Nations, and appointed the first Mozambique ambassador to the United States.

NAMIBIA

Explosion Destroys Gas Pump in Windhoek

MB050841 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] An explosion has destroyed a petrol pump at a filling station in Windhoek. A fire which started after the explosion shortly before 0500 this morning was extinguished by the fire brigade. Nobody was injured in the explosion.

SOUTH AFRICA

Minister in London Reacts to Thatcher Remarks

MB041838 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The South African minister of finance, Dr Owen Horwood, says the British prime minister's allegation that South Africa is using economic pressure as part of a more aggressive attitude toward its neighbors is very regrettable. Speaking in London, he said if her statements as reported were true, then, as far as he was concerned, the facts were strongly to contrary. Dr Horwood was adressing journalists in London en route to Europe after attending an IMF meeting in Washington. Dr Horwood gave examples of economic cooperation between South Africa and its neighbors, such as the customs union and the employment of foreign labor in the mines.

Referring to the drop in the gold price, Dr Horwood said it could be attributed mainly to the uncertainty on the Hong Kong market because of the future of the territory once the lease expires in 1997. He said he did not expect the price to fall much further. The fall to below $400 an ounce was possibly just a short-term movement, and he expected the price to improve toward the end of the year as fabrication demand arose.

Dr Horwood said the world recession and a severe drought in Southern Africa had seriously affected South African growth and exports, but the South African balance of payments was still very sound; one reason being a drop in imports. Dr Horwood said he had been encouraged in Washington by the view of the South African economy in spite of the drought and the relatively low gold price.

He said South Africa's credit-worthiness was very high. Asked about the success of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, which is trying to make black Southern African states less dependent economically on South Africa, he said its practical effects were not significant in any shape or form.

In Washington, on the other hand, there have been encouraging indications of support for the Southern African Development Bank involving South Africa and the four independent black states: Transkei, Ciskei, Bophuthatswana, and Venda. He said the door was open for other countries to join.

Pik Botha Comments

MB050656 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, says an imporant aspect that has emerged from the comments on South Africa by the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, is that South Africa can't seek solutions to its problems outside its borders.

Speaking at a public meeting at Kempton Park, Mr Botha described as unacceptably racialistic the remark by Mrs Thatcher that South Africa should expect to be judged by European leaders according to Western standards if it claimed to be part of the West. He said that the black people of Africa and other former British colonies were given total freedom to conduct their affairs at their own discretion.

On the other hand, South Africa was expected to behave better and to subject itself to examination. Mr Botha said that nobody benefitted from this kind of opinion from European leaders. Such an approach hardened the attitude of whites and made them refuse to accept criticisms that might possibly be constructive. This type of approach also created expectations among blacks that governments that criticize whites would stand by them as had happened in Zimbabwe. Mr Botha said that West European governments, including the British Government, wanted to dictate solutions in Africa, but they were not prepared to accept the consequences of these solutions.

Defense Official Comments on Mozambique Claims

MB041849 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 4 Oct 83

[Text] The SADF says Mozambique is apparently engaged in a large-scale propaganda campaign against South Africa to support the current visit to Europe by President Samora Machel. The Defense Force was reacting to a report from the Mozambican capital of Maputo in which it was claimed that South Africa had sent military instructors and weapons to camps of the RENAMO resistance movement inside Mozambique. An officer said in Pretoria that Mozambique had been churning out this kind of propaganda in recent weeks in support of President Machel's visit, and more of it could be expected for as long as he was abroad. The officer said the Mozambican claims were a typical Marxist pattern, in which South Africa was blamed for the internal problems of Mozambique. The accusations of South African involvement in the activities of the RENAMO resistance were, he said, an ill-conceived attempt to gain assistance from other countries.

Last week RENAMO dismissed Mozambican Government claims that two Portuguese nationals had escaped from a RENAMO camp more than 9 mionths after being captured. RENAMO denied that it had ever held the two men, and said the Frelimo Government had begun a propaganda campaign to cover up the serious deterioration of the situation in Mozambique.

SWAZILAND

Prime Minister Pledges To Preserve Stability

MB011107 Mbabane The Swazi News in English 1 Oct 83 pp 1, 24

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, has pledged that the Royal family would maintain stability in the Kingdom until Crown Makhosetive comes of age. Prince Bhekimpi was addressing a gathering at Ngwane. "You have probably heard that there were some misunderstandings among members of the Royal family," he said. "I want to assure you that Queen Ntombi has been consolidated as the Queen Regent and Prince Makhosetive will become King when he comes of age.

"The authorities will ensure calm and stability until the King is installed and I, as prime minister, call upon all of you to support what the authorities are saying," Prince Bhekimpi said. In a wide-ranging speech, Prince Bhekimpi said Swaziland would continue to fight for Ingwavuma, which was abitrarily annexed by South Africa. He said Ingwavuma has been part of Swaziland since the days of King Shaka.

He stated that when the Dlaminis left Delagoa Bay in Mozambique they trecked across the Ingwavuma and Pongola Rivers and settled at Mkhuzweni, south of Pongola. When the Zulu wars started the Swazis were driven across the Pongola. An agreement was subsequently reached between the then Swazi King Ngwane and King Shaka of the Zulus that the Pongolo River would be the boundary. "We still abide by this agreement and nothing will change us from this path," he said. "We are patiently waiting for the report of the Rumpf Commission into the border issue."